PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,

OF MINNESOTA,

AT ITS SIXTH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, IN THE CITY OF ST. PAUL, COMMENCING JANUARY 5TH, A.·. L.·. 5858.

FIRST DAY.

The following Grand Officers present, to wit:

M.·. W.·. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. W. H. MOWER, Deputy Grand Master.
" " E. A. HODSDON, Senior Grand Warden.
" " WM. LEE, Junior Grand Warden.
" " E. CASE, Grand Treasurer.
" " GEO. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.
W.·. CYRUS G. WYKOFF, as Grand Marshal.
" REV. J. PENMAN, Grand Chaplain.
" GEORGE MAXFIELD, as Grand Standard Bearer.
" JAMES M. RIDER, as Grand Sword Bearer.
" JAS. S. CAMPBELL, as Senior Grand Deacon.
" B. PRESLEY, Grand Junior Deacon.
" J. C. WHIPPLE, Grand Pursuivant.
" A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

At 12 o'clock, M., a Master Mason's ▭ was opened in ample form by the M.·. W.·. Grand Master, aided by the Grand Officers and brethren present, preparatory to opening the Grand ▭ of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota.

Prayer was offered by the R.·. W.·. Grand Chaplain.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master appointed Brothers I. P. Wright and D. B. Loomis a committee to assist the Grand Secretary in preparing a report of the number of Subordinate ▭ represented; and thereupon the ▭ was called from labor to refreshment, until 2 o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1858, 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson, presiding.

The Grand Secretary reported that of the eighteen ▭ in this jurisdiction, fourteen were represented, namely:

St. John's ▭, No. 1; St. Paul ▭, No. 3; Hennepin ▭, No. 4; Ancient Landmark ▭, No. 5; Shakopee ▭, No. 6; Dakota ▭, No. 7; Faribault ▭, No. 9; Pacific ▭, No. 10; Mantorville ▭, No. 11; Mankato ▭, No. 12; Henderson ▭, No. 13; Wapahasa ▭, No. 14; Hokah ▭, No. 17; Winona ▭, No. 18.

The Representatives from a Constitutional number of ▭ being present, the M.·. W.·. Grand Master opened the Grand ▭ of Minnesota in ample form for the transaction of business, and solemn prayer was offered by the R.·. W.·. Grand Chaplain.

Printed Proceedings of the last Annual Communication being in the hands of the members, the reading thereof was, on motion, dispensed with.

On motion of Brother A. C. Smith,

Resolved, That all Master Masons, in good and regular standing in the Territory, be invited to take seats in this Grand ▭.

On motion of Brother A. C. Smith,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed, to report to-morrow a basis of representation in this Grand ▭, under the Constitution.

Brothers A. C. Smith, W. H. Mower, and E. A. Hodsdon, were appointed said committee.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master announced the following Standing Committees, namely:

On Returns of ▭—Bros. Frank Mantor, J. T. Furber and Geo. L. Otis.

On Work of ▭, U.·. D.·.—Bros. Henry Reynolds, C. G. Wykoff and Jno. C. Whipple.

On Examination of Secretary and Treasurer's Books—Bros. D. B. Loomis, Jno. M. Kerlinger and George Maxfield.

On Visiting Brethren—Bros. A. E. Ames and I. P. Wright.

On Appeals and Grievances, Bros. A. C. Smith, L. E. Thompson, W. V. Athey, J. S. Campbell, and Chas. H. Connelly.

On Unfinished Business, Bros. R. R. Bryant, W. H. Wolff, and Lewis Branson.

On Ancient Landmarks, Bros. M. W. Getchell, J. M. Rider and Wm. Smith.

On motion the Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6th, 1858, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson, presiding, and a constitutional number of ▭ being represented.

Prayer by a brother.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

Representatives from the following additional ▭ appeared:

Cataract ▭, No. 2. Monticello ▭, No. 16. Red Wing ▭, No. 8.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand ▭: Why is it that, at least once in each year, in every civilized country on the globe, there assembles a body of men composed of all classes in society; kings from their thrones, mechanics from their workshops, statesmen from the halls of legislation, artists from their studios, clergymen from the altar, judges from the bench, politicians from the forum; discarding the conventionalism of the world, and meeting on an equality of fraternal intercourse, as brethren of one great family; meeting together at all seasons, regardless alike of winter's cold or summer's heat? What is it that has induced you, my brethren, to leave your family firesides, in this cold and inclement season of the year, some of you traveling hundreds of miles, where railroads are not known, through snow-drifts, fording rivers half frozen, crossing prairies where human habitations are miles apart? Why this exposure? What inducement for this sacrifice of time, money and ease? What but your love of your fellow men—your desire to counsel together to advance the interests of Freemasonry; whose mission is to soothe the anguish of the afflicted, protect and relieve the necessities of the widow, guide, support, and educate the orphan; to cultivate peace and good will among men, thereby rendering them better, happier. To counsel together as to the best means of advancing these glorious objects of Freemasonry, and maintaining in their pristine beauty and loveliness these sublime principles in our jurisdiction, is the great object of this Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand ▭ of Minnesota. Our first and greatest duty is to render thanks and adoration to the GREAT I AM for continued life and the prosperity and happiness within our jurisdiction.

Of the thirty-five Masonic Jurisdictions in the United States, ours is the only one that has not been called upon within eighteen months past to mourn "a vacancy in their number." This, my brethren, is our Fifth Grand Annual Communication, and every member of the Convention which formed the Grand ▭, is still alive. Our first M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·., a P.·. D.·. G.·. M.·., and other brethren, who took an active part in our organization, are with us to-day.

At our last Grand Annual Communication ten charters were granted for new ▭. For such places as I could not visit in person and constitute the ▭, I issued proxies to well informed Past Masters. Their returns advised me that each had performed the duty assigned him and gave me very flattering accounts of the prospects of the ▭ thus constituted, which to-day is realized. Of the eighteen chartered ▭ in this jurisdiction, seventeen are here represented; one year since we had but eight.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last G.·. A.·. C.·., I procured two hundred new charters for Subordinates, printed upon parchment. The work was done by R.·. W.·. Robert Macoy, D.·. G.·. M.·., of New York, and reflects much credit upon his taste and skill.

The old charters have been taken up and replaced by the new ones, the signatures of the different officers having been again obtained.

The brethren at Pleasant Grove, in Olmsted County, to whom a Dispensation had been issued in October, 1856, not having had time to send up "specimens" of their work, at our last Communication, applied for a continuance, which I granted, without fee.

I have granted, during the year past, dispensations for ▭ named and located as follows:

Chatfield ▭ U.·. D.·., at Chatfield, Fillmore County; Wilton ▭ U.·. D.·., at Wilton, Waseca County; Rochester ▭ U.·. D.·., at Rochester, Olmsted County; Glencoe ▭ U.·. D.·., at Glencoe, McLeod County; Caledonia ▭ U.·. D.·., at Caledonia, Houston County; Evening Star ▭

U.·. D.·., at Albert Lea, Freeborn County; North Star ▭ U.·. D.·., at Watab, Benton County.

Applications for dispensations were made during the year, by brethren residing at Stockton, Winona County, and at Cannon City, Rice County.

As there were ▭ within six miles of each place, and I doubted the policy of establishing ▭ so near each other, particularly as the population was sparse at the points named, I denied the applications.

Late in November, I received an application for a dispensation from brethren in Cannon Falls, Goodhue County. This is a very good point for a ▭, the nearest one being some twenty miles distant, and the surrounding country rapidly filling up. The application was received so late in the year, that, if granted, the brethren would not have had time to organize, confer Degrees, and send up the result at this Communication. Again, no fee accompanied the application. I advised them either to apply to the Grand ▭ for a charter, or after its close, for a dispensation.

There is pervading this whole country, from the Iowa line to Crow Wing river, and from the St. Croix to the Big Sioux, a desire for the establishment of Masonic ▭. It appears to be a characteristic of the brethren residing in this State or Territory, as soon as a home is secured, to look around among their neighbors, and ascertain how many are Masons, to the end that a ▭ may be established.

I have adhered, in the matter of dispensations, to the rules laid down in my address to the Grand ▭ last year.

Among the communications received on the subject, and to which replies were made, were from Elliota and Carimona, in Fillmore County, Owatonna, in Steele County; Winnebago, in Faribault County; Lewiston, in Rice County; Zumbro, in Wabasha County; Belle Plaine, in Scott County; Little Falls, in Morrison County; Crow Wing, in Cass County; Spring Valley, in Mower County; Marion, in Olmsted County; Anoka, in Anoka County.

I advised the brethren in each case to wait until at least ten brethren could be found residing within a convenient distance, before application was made, and in the meantime meet together in some convenient place, and familiarize themselves with the work and lectures; they would then be prepared to establish a ▭ on a firm basis.

I have examined the By-Laws of two-thirds of the Subordinate ▭ in our jurisdiction, and have found but few errors to correct. In every instance my suggestions have been promptly complied with.

The Constitution of the Grand ▭ makes it incumbent upon the Grand Master to visit the Subordinate ▭ at least once in each year. While our ▭ were few in number, this requirement was easily complied with; but as the number increases, extending over a country so large, and ▭ being in some instances sixty miles distant from each other, it becomes no easy task to visit all.

In compliance with the requirement, I have visited all the ▭, (with two exceptions,) including those under dispensation, spending from two to four days with each one, traveling over 1300 miles.

I shall ever look back with pleasure upon the time expended (about three months) in visiting. Had I wealth or honors to bestow, I could not have been more cordially received. Where is there more pleasure to be found than at the family fireside of a warm-hearted brother? and such are to be found everywhere in Minnesota.

I would not be invidious, but one fact in respect to the ▭ at Hokah and Pleasant Grove I must mention. At each of the ▭ named, several members were present whose residences were fifteen miles distant, and who were generally punctual in their attendance. The Senior Warden of Pleasant Grove resides fourteen miles from the ▭; on examination of the records, I found that he had been present at every stated, and at several called Communications since the granting of the dispensation in October, 1856, an instance of devotion to the interests of Masonry rarely met with, and deserving of commendation.

The gratification at the cordiality of my reception by the brethren, was much enhanced by their desire to learn the work; the "wee sma' hours"

have, in more than one instance, found the brethren searching after light, untiring and unflagging.

I have secured a uniformity of ceremony; but that of language can never be, as the work cannot be written; nor is it desirable that precisely the same words should be used under all circumstances—the ▭ room would become monotonous. Uniformity, however, should be had in ceremonial and usage.

Masonry does not consist of words alone. To be able to pronounce a few set phrases, and always in precisely the same language, does not make a Mason; a "bright" Mason is not one who has learned the ritual by rote, and is at a loss if a syllable or word be forgotten, and knows no more of Masonry. A bright Mason, if I understand the term, is one who is familiar with the ritual; who understands the nature and origin of our symbols; who has studied the meaning of our ceremonies; who appreciates and practices the teachings of our mysteries; *one who is a good man, and true.*

Particular attention was paid to the records of ▭ in my visitations; experience has proved that in those ▭ where system, correctness, accuracy, and punctality in recording its transactions were observed, peace and harmony prevailed, and the ▭ were prosperous. Negligent and inefficient Secretaries do a vast deal of harm in Masonic as in other associations of men. Many of the Secretaries were furnished with blank forms, applicable to such business as is generally transacted.

Several applications have been made to me for dispensations to confer Degrees upon candidates "*who desired to leave and had no time to make the required proficiency,*" which applications I have *refused in every instance.* In times of old, E.·. A.·. served their Masters seven years. I do not subscribe to the doctrine that we are so much wiser than our fathers, that E.·. A.·. should not be required to serve their Masters at all, or only so long as it might be necessary to arrange for the second Degree; *rushing* candidates through the Degrees is of no advantage to the initiate, but of positive injury to the Craft. The brother thus made is unable to gain admission to any well-governed ▭ where he is not personally known, and reflects discredit upon the ▭ and jurisdiction in which he was made.

This word *emergency* should be stricken from the Masonic language—if, indeed, it is Masonic. More landmarks, customs, and usages of Freemasonry are violated under the cloak of this one word, than all the visionaries have been able to accomplish, from the *pseudo* Chevalier Ramsey, down to the present day; more harm has been done to the Order than was done by all the tirades of Pritchard, Lambert, Abbe Barrule, Robinson and a host of others, each of whom supposed he had killed Masonry beyond resurrection.

As an evidence of the increasing interest taken in the Ancient Craft in Minnesota, I may mention that two dispensations have been granted by the M.·. E.·. G.·. G.·. H.·. P.·., Chas. Gilman, for new Chapters, Vermillion Chapter, at Hastings, and St. Anthony Falls Chapter, at St. Anthony. Each having experienced officers, will add much to spread a knowledge of the Capitular Degrees, and advance the influence of the Fraternity.

While in Washington last winter, my attention was called to the fact that no contribution had been made by the Grand ▭ of Minnesota towards the erection of the monument to the Father of his Country, at the National Capital. That Washington was a Mason is known to every Freemason in the land, although "anti's" have questioned the fact. I have seen the apron he wore, the chair that he occupied, the gavel that he wielded, the Bible that witnessed his making, and the original records of the transaction.

In honoring his memory, we honor the Craft. I respectfully recommend that a stone be procured from one of our numerous quarries, properly *squared, marked,* and *numbered,* and sent on as a contribution of the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of Minnesota.

For more than fifty years past, the project of a General Superintending body of Freemasons has been discussed by the Grand ▭ in the United States. "Grand ▭ of the United States," "General Grand ▭," "Confederation of Grand ▭," &c., have been variously recommended by Grand

Masters and Grand ▭, since the Grand ▭ of Pennsylvania declared Geo. Washington Grand Master of the United States.

No system has yet been proposed that met with a concurrence of a majority of the Grand Lodges. "*Time and Perseverance will accomplish all things.*"

Our Grand Lodge has placed itself on the record favoring the principle, by adoption of a resolution in 1856, disapproving the then proposed Confederation, but approving of a General Superintending body to which appeals could be made, &c. This notice is occasioned from having recently received a circular from the M.·. W.·. G.·. L.·. of Maine, over which that venerable Father in Masonry, Gov. R. P. Dunlap, presides.

That Grand Lodge proposes that a Convention be held in the city of Chicago, in September, 1859, at the time the G.·. G.·. E.·. of K.·. T.·. and the G.·. G.·. C.·. of R.·. A.·. M.·. hold their tri-ennial sessions. Delegates to those bodies, could be delegates to the Convention, and no expense incurred by the G.·. L.·. I am of opinion that a body having a kind of general superintendence over the Craft in the United States, would be eminently beneficial, particularly if no officers with high sounding titles were created, and if they had no revenue.

I recommend the subject to your consideration.

Applications have been recently made at the doors of our ▭ for admission by individuals claiming to be Masons, but hailing from ▭ in New York, that the Grand ▭ of the world, with but two or three exceptions, have declared to be clandestine. Our Grand ▭ is not upon the record; that our Subordinates may act understandingly and authoritatively, I respectfully recommend the adoption of a resolution, interdicting Masonic intercourse with any from the State of New York, but those hailing from ▭ acknowledging the Grand ▭ over which the M.·. W.·. John L. Lewis, Jr., presides, and which has sometimes been styled the "Willard Grand ▭." Some two years since, forty-one ▭ in Canada, feeling their grievances too great to be borne, dissolved their connection with the mother ▭ and formed a Grand ▭ of Canada, which action has been recognized by the Grand ▭ of Ireland, Scotland, and several in the United States, as legitimate. During the past year the balance of the ▭ surrendered their charters to the Mother ▭, placing themselves in the position of non-affiliated Masons. Afterwards, delegates from these late Masonic ▭ met in Convention and proceeded to form a second Grand ▭. Had the later ▭ not thrown up their charters, but remained in allegiance to the Mother ▭, it might have been a question of policy as to discrimination between them; but the action of the latter party have proved that the grievances of the forty-one ▭ were sufficient to justify their action. In the Western Hemisphere, no question of Masonic jurisprudence is better settled than that there can be but one Grand ▭ in the same State or Territory. That the Subordinates may know how to govern themselves as to receiving visitors, it becomes important for this G.·. L.·. to decide which shall be recognized.

Grand ▭ in the Territories were formed in Kansas in June, 1856, and in Nebraska in September last, under precisely similar circumstances that led to the formation of this Grand ▭. Shall we not encourage them by a vote of recognition and welcome into the family of American Grand ▭?

Our right to form a Grand ▭ has been questioned by one of the oldest Grand ▭ in the Union, on the ground of political position. M.·. W.·. Philip C. Tucker, Grand Master of Vermont, (to know whom is to know one of the brightest Masons of any age,) promptly vindicated our right to independence, notwithstanding our Territorial position. A change having taken place in that respect, it is to be hoped that Massachusetts will recognize us as a State.

Pressure in the money market exists in Minnesota, as it is said to exist in other countries, hence the erection of the Masonic Hall has not progressed as it was hoped and expected it would last year. The return of confidence in moneyed circles will be taken advantage of to hasten its completion.

Brethren, I must be permitted to remark that in Minnesota, Masonry,

although the Grand ▭ is but five years old, is as well understood, and its ceremonies as correctly practiced as in any of the older jurisdictions. The credit for this high position of the Craft here is due to the brethren who have located here, from "the world o'er." It is not uncommon to meet in our ▭ brethren made in and hailing from England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Canada, and half a dozen States in the Union. But perfection exists nowhere on earth.

The *tongue* is said to be an unruly member, and one of the *great objects of Freemasonry is to learn* men to *govern it.* It has been held by brethren high in the confidence of the Masonic world, that *loquaciousness* is sufficient ground for rejection of applicants for initiation in our mysteries; if sufficient for rejection, is it not equally sufficient for Masonic discipline?

If it should obtain to permit Masons to solicit or advise the profane to seek admission in our Order, what would be the result?—confusion, discord, anarchy. Every brother affiliated or not, should be promptly dealt with, who, in any way endeavors to procure or influence men to become candidates for our mysteries. When a dozen petitions are presented on the same evening, it is presumptive that undue influences have been used, and more than ordinary (if possible) scrutiny should be exercised.

Prominent among the causes, nay, the first great cause of all, confusion and discord among Masons and in Masonic ▭, is the too free use of the tongue.

So essential did the ancients deem a due-guard (query? origin of due-guard?) over the tongue, that a probationary term of silence, varying in length of time, was required of all applicants for the mysteries. The lessons so emphatically taught in each of the Degrees in Ancient Craft Masonry, Silence, Secrecy, and Circumspection, cannot be too strongly, or too often commended to Masons. O! how much anguish of mind, hypocrisy, deceit, hatred, death, would have been saved the world, had they been practiced. Volumes could be written upon the evils resulting to man from a want of practicing them. Each of you, my brethren, have seen the dire effects of their want. Have you not personally experienced the *sting* of the *slanderous tongue?* Have you not writhed under secret accusations, and detractions of false friends or open enemies? Have you not wept over confidence betrayed? Have you not mourned over even a brother's forgetfulness of Silence, Secrecy and Circumspection. Can a man be a good Mason and ignore the fourth and fifth points of Fellowship? Evil speaking, Anger, Envy, Malice or Revenge have no place among Freemasons who understand and appreciate our noble science.

One important engagement that men enter into when they join this Heaven-born Order, cannot be too often impressed, or too indelibly fixed upon the mind:

"To defend the interests of a brother in his absence, to speak favorably of him if truth will permit, and when that cannot be done with propriety, to adopt the Freemason's peculiar virtues, *silence, secrecy* and *circumspection.*"

Another matter, brethren, and I will tire your patience no longer.

▭ *Attendance.*—▭ with a roll of membership numbering from forty to a hundred, frequently have hardly a sufficient number present to open at the hour named; why is this? To have learned a few manipulations, motions, words, is not to have learned Masonry. They are of themselves nothing. Knowledge (which is only attained by diligence,) must precede practice, and until we know a duty it is impossible for us to discharge it. The ▭ is the proper school wherein to arrive at any proficiency in our noble science; hence a regular and constant attendance upon the Communications of a ▭, is necessary to become Masters of the Royal Art.

Brotherly Love is one of the principal tenets of Freemasonry. By frequently assembling together in our ▭ rooms, we harmonize in sentiment, grow in affection, are moved by the same impulses, governed by the same inclinations, moulded by the same morals: from whence comes that brotherly love and charity, that nothing earthly can destroy?

It is the practice of Silence, Secrecy, and Circumspection; the possession of this Brotherly Love and Charity, that forms the great bond of union among Freemasons, that furnishes a friend, a home, a brother under

all circumstances, in every clime; a brother who will not deceive, one whom you may safely trust with your fortune, your life, your good name, and dearer, far dearer than these, the honor of your mother, sister, daughter, or wife.

In conclusion, I have borrowed and slightly altered a few lines:

Whene'er the angry passions rise,
And tempt our thoughts and tongues to strife,
To the Saints John we turn our eyes;
Bright patterns of the Mason's life!
How mild! how ready to forgive!
Be these the rules by which we live!

R.·. W.·. Brother Mower moved:

1st. That so much of the Grand Master's address as refers to Washington Monument, be referred to a select Committee of three.

2d. That so much thereof as refers to a General Grand ▭, be referred to a select committee of three.

3d. That so much as refers to the Grand ▭ of New York, be referred to a select committee of three.

4th. That so much as refers to a Grand ▭ of Canada, be referred to a select committee of three.

5th. That so much as refers to the Grand ▭ of Kansas and Nebraska, be referred to a select committee of three.

Which motion prevailed, and thereupon the Most Worshipful Grand Master appointed

As the first of said committees—Bros. W. H. Mower, Frank Mantor and E. S. Hodsdon.

As the second of said committees—Bros. A. E. Ames, A. C. Smith and W. H. Wolff.

As the third of said committees—Bros. William Smith, I. P. Wright and C. G. Wykoff.

As the fourth of said committees—Bros. L. E. Thompson, Geo. Maxfield and S. L. Campbell.

As the fifth of said committees—R.·. W.·. Bro. Reynolds, and Bros. Adams and Connelly.

Bro. A. C. Smith, on behalf of the special committee appointed yesterday, made the following report:

To the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ now in session:

Your committee to whom was referred the basis of Representation and Voting in Grand ▭ under the Constitution, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to recommend the following amendments to the General Regulations, viz:

Amend Section 83 of General Regulations, by adding to the end of said section, the following:

"If two of said Representatives be absent, the Representative present shall cast the entire vote of the ▭."

Also amend Section 88 by adding to the end thereof the following:

"Past G.·. Masters, Past Deputy G.·. Masters, Past Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, and Past Masters of Subordinate ▭, shall each be entitled to one vote when in Grand ▭; but no Grand Officer, or Past Grand

Officer, or Past Master, representing a Subordinate ▭, shall be entitled to vote in a double capacity, but may elect in which capacity he will vote."

Respectfully submitted.

A. C. SMITH,
W. H. MOWER,
E. A. HODSDON. } Committee.

Which report was accepted and the committee discharged.

The amendments proposed were then adopted by unanimous vote of the Grand ▭.

On motion of Brother A. C. Smith,

Resolved, That this Grand ▭ will proceed to the annual election of officers for the ensuing Masonic year, to morrow, at 2½ o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand ▭ the following communications:

1st. A letter from Brother Leon Hyneman, editor of the *Masonic Mirror and Keystone*, accompanied by a mezzotint portrait of M.·. W.·. Peter Williamson, Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Brother A. E. Ames, it was

Resolved, That the portrait be framed and preserved in the archives of the Grand ▭; that the letter of Brother Hyneman be spread upon the records, and that the thanks of this Grand ▭ be returned to him for so beautiful a present.

[COPY OF LETTER.]

OFFICE MASONIC MIRROR AND KEYSTONE,
PHILADELPHIA, MAY 23, 1857.

G. W. Prescott, Esq., R.·. W.·. Grand Secretary of Grand ▭ of Minnesota:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I forward by the hands of Brother Lewis Hyneman, for the Grand ▭ of Minnesota, a portrait of Peter Williamson, Esq., Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania, which I beg the Grand ▭ to accept. The portrait is a mezzotint engraving, and one of the finest specimens of the art ever executed in this country, and as such is worthy of preservation.

With best regards,
I am Yours Fraternally,

LEON HYNEMAN.

2d. A printed circular from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of the State of Maine, prepared pursuant to a resolution of the Grand ▭, relative to the formation of a General Grand ▭.

This, on motion of Brother A. C. Smith, was laid upon the table.

3d. A communication from E. B. Hood, and notice of his appeal from the sentence of expulsion pronounced against him by Shakopee ▭ No. 6.

Which was, on motion, referred to the committee on Appeals and Grievances.

The Grand Secretary read the petition of certain brethren, Master Masons, asking a charter for a new ▭ at Minneapolis.

On motion of R.·. W.·. Brother Mower, the petition was referred to a select committee of three.

Brothers D. B. Loomis, M. W. Getchell and E. Case were appointed such committee.

The Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1858, 3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson, presiding.

The amendments to the Constitution, adopted at the last Grand Annual Communication, and ordered to be sent to the Subordinate ▭ for their information, coming up in the order of business, the first amendment, to wit:

Resolved, That section 32, title 4, of the Constitution, be amended by striking out all after the word "continues" in the last line.

Was disapproved by a vote of 45 to 19.

And the second amendment, to wit:

Resolved, That section 48, in title 6, of our Constitution, be stricken out and the following substituted in the stead thereof:

"In pronouncing upon the guilt or innocence of an accused brother, the Worshipful Master shall order the Deacons to spread the ballots, and shall say, 'Brethren, we are about to ballot in the case of Brother ————. Those in favor of sustaining the charge will cast a white ball, and those who are of the opinion that the charge is not sustained, will cast a black ball.' The Worshipful Master shall then announce the ballot through his Wardens."

Was disapproved by a vote of 48 to 11.

On motion of Brother Loomis, the following resolution, adopted at the last Communication, was rescinded:

Resolved, That the brethren who work a ▭ U.·. D.·., are liable to the several ▭ from which they hail, for dues; and those ▭ must pay dues for them to the Grand ▭, the only dues chargeable to a ▭ U.·. D.·., being one dollar for each Degree conferred.

The Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1858, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson presiding, and a constitutional number of ▭ being represented.

Prayer by a brother.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was received. [For report see Appendix.]

Brother A. C. Smith moved the report be accepted, and printed

with the Proceedings, at the expense of the Grand ☐, which motion prevailed.

The following reports of committees were made:

The committee to whom was referred the petition from Brother Franklin Steele and 22 others, from Minneapolis, praying for a charter for a new ☐, to be called Minneapolis ☐, No. —, beg leave to report:

"That they have had the same under advisement, and after carefully considering all the circumstances attending the petition, are of opinion that the formation of a new ☐ at the place named, would be for the benefit of the Craft. They would therefore recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted upon their complying with the usual terms."

D. B. Loomis,
M. W. Getchell,
E. Case.
} Committee.

The report was, on motion of Brother H. Reynolds, accepted, and on motion of Brother L. E. Thompson, was adopted.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as alludes to the subject of the Washington monument, have had the same under consideration, and would respectfully report, that,

Whereas, the name of Washington is held in high veneration by all Patriots, as the Father of his Country; his many Masonic virtues and excellencies render his memory peculiarly dear to all true and worthy brethren of the Craft; therefore,

Resolved, That the M.·. W.·. Grand Master be authorized to procure a suitable stone from some of our quarries, have it properly squared, numbered and marked with a suitable device, and forwarded to the Managers of the Washington Monument Association, as a contribution from the M.·. W.·. Grand ☐ of Masons, of Minnesota; and that he be authorized to draw an order on the Grand Treasurer for the expense of the same.

Wm. H. Mower,
E. A. Hodsdon,
Frank Mantor.
} Committee.

The report was accepted, and on motion, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances have had under consideration the appeal of Edmund B. Hood, from the sentence of expulsion pronounced against him on the 25th day of November last, by Shakopee ☐, No. 6, in this jurisdiction, and beg leave to report:

"That no certified copy of the Proceedings has been sent up to this Grand ☐, as is, or should be required of every Grand ☐ in such cases, and they would therefore recommend that the Grand Secretary be directed to require Shakopee ☐, No. 6, to make a certified return to this Grand ☐, within ninety days after the close of its present session, of all the Proceedings had in the case before said ☐, against said Hood, and particularly of all moneys paid into the ☐ while said Hood was acting as an officer thereof, and to whom such money was paid in each case as it appears of record; and that in the meantime, the said sentence of expulsion, pronounced by the ☐ against said Hood, be declared suspended.

The committee would recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be, and he is hereby directed to notify Shakopee ▭, No. 6, of the action of this Grand ▭ in the case of E. B. Hood, and require said ▭ to send to his office a certified and duly attested copy of all the Proceedings had in the original trial of said cause, within sixty days after receiving said notice, and that the sentence of expulsion pronounced in said case be, and the same is hereby *suspended* until the next session of this Grand ▭.

A. C. Smith,
Wm. V. Athey,
L. E. Thompson,
Jas. S. Campbell,
Chas. H. Connelly. } Committee.

The report was accepted and adopted, and the resolution agreed to.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That in all cases of suspension or expulsion which may hereafter take place in any ▭ in this jurisdiction, when the party delinquent appeals from the decision of his ▭, an official report of the trial, together with all the papers and proceedings in the case, should be transmitted forthwith to the Grand Secretary by the Secretary of said ▭, to the end that speedy justice may be rendered in Grand ▭.

A. C. Smith,
Wm. V. Athey,
L. E. Thompson,
Jas. S. Campbell,
Chas. H. Connelly. } Committee.

The report was accepted, and the resolution was agreed to.

Bro. Henry Reynolds offered the following:

Whereas, Red Wing ▭, No. 8, has lately lost their hall, furniture, and property by fire; therefore,

Resolved, That the dues to this Grand ▭ from Red Wing ▭, No. 8, amounting to the sum of $27.50, be, and the same is hereby remitted.

The preamble and resolution were unanimously agreed to.

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the Grand ▭ of New York, report, that they recommend the passage of the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, There has been no formal action by this Grand ▭ relative to the Grand ▭ of New York; and whereas, it is desirable that our position should be made a matter of record; therefore,

Resolved, That this Grand ▭ recognizes the body over which M.·. W.·. John L. Lewis, jr., presides as Grand Master, and of which R.·. W.·. James M. Austin, is Grand Secretary, as the only Grand ▭ of the State of New York, and forbids the reception, by any ▭ under this jurisdiction, of visitors hailing from or recognizing any other body assuming the prerogatives of a Grand ▭ in that State.

Wm. Smith,
I. P. Wright,
C. G. Wykoff. } Committee.

The report was accepted, and the preamble and resolution were unanimously agreed to.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the Grand ▭ of the Territories of Kan-

sas and Nebraska, beg leave to introduce the following resolution, and ask its adoption by this Grand Body:

Resolved, That the Grand ▭ of the Territory of Minnesota extend to the Grand ▭ of Kansas and Nebraska, the right hand of fellowship, and bids them a hearty welcome into the general sisterhood of Grand ▭.

H. REYNOLDS,
SAM. E. ADAMS,
CHAS. H. CONNELLY. } Committee.

The report was accepted, and the resolution unanimously agreed to.

The committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address which relates to the Grand ▭ of Canada, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

That your committee fully approve of the action of the Independent Grand ▭ of Canada, established at Hamilton, on the 10th day of October, 1855; your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution, which they find in the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Kentucky:

Resolved, That the Independent Grand ▭ of Canada, of which Brother Wm. M. Wilson is Grand Master, and R.·. W.·. Thos. Bird Harris is Grand Secretary, in its efforts to uphold the banner of Ancient Masonry, has our warmest approval and recognition; and we do in the most fraternal manner, welcome said Grand ▭ to the galaxy of American Grand ▭, with which we are in correspondence.

L. E. THOMPSON,
S. L. CAMPBELL,
GEO. MAXFIELD. } Committee.

The report was accepted, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The following additional resolution was proposed and unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, That this Grand ▭ forbids the reception, by any ▭ under this jurisdiction, of visitors hailing from any other body assuming the prerogatives of a Grand ▭ in that jurisdiction.

Brother I. P. Wright moved that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a Pay-Roll of members; which motion prevailed, and Bros. I. P. Wright, R. R. Bryant, and Lewis Branson were appointed said committee.

The Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until 2½ o'clock, this afternoon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1858, 2½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson, presiding.

This being the hour designated for the election of officers, the Grand ▭ proceeded to that business—Bros. Wolff and Branson being appointed tellers—and the following Grand Officers were elected for the ensuing Masonic year:

M.·. W.·. A. T. C. PIERSON, of St. Paul, Grand Master, re-elected.
R.·. W.·. D. B. LOOMIS, of Stillwater, Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. FRANK MANTOR, Mantorville, Senior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. A. C. SMITH, Minneapolis, Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. EMANUEL CASE, Minneapolis, Grand Treasurer, re-elected.
R.·. W.·. GEO. W. PRESCOTT, St. Paul, Grand Secretary, re-elected.

R.·. W.·. Bro. Wm. H. Mower, D.·. G.·. M.·., declined a re-election.

Brother A. C. Smith, from the Committee on Appeals and Grievances, made the following report:

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances have had under consideration the appeal of Isaac Brown, from the action of Hennepin □, No. 4, expelling him from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, and also the testimony sent up to this Grand □, by said Hennepin □; and after a revision of the case as fully as the informal proceedings will allow, your committee are of opinion that the evidence, as sent up to this Grand □, is not sufficient to justify the action heretofore had thereupon in said □; your committee would, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the sentence of expulsion heretofore pronounced by Hennepin □, No. 4, against Brother Isaac Brown, is hereby reversed.

A. C. SMITH,
WM. V. ATHEY,
L. E. THOMPSON,
JAS. S. CAMPBELL,
CHAS. H. CONNELLY. } Committee.

The report was accepted, and the question being on agreeing to the resolution, R.·. W.·. Bro. Penman moved to amend by adding thereto the following:—"and that this case be remanded back to Hennepin □, No. 4, for a new trial." Which motion prevailed, and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

Brother R. R. Bryant made the following report:

The Committee on Unfinished Business can find nothing in the Proceedings of this Grand □, giving the Grand Treasurer any remuneration for the disbursement of its funds; we, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Grand □ pay the Grand Treasurer the same compensation as is paid Representatives of ⊟, for receiving, keeping and disbursing the funds of this Grand □.

R. R. BRYANT,
L. BRANSON,
WM. H. WOLFF. } Committee.

The report was accepted, and the resolution was agreed to.

Brother Frank Mantor made the following report, which was accepted:

The Committee on Returns of ⊟ would respectfully report: That they have had under examination the returns of the following named ⊟, and, with the exception of some slight informalities in filling up the blanks, find them correct:

St. John's □ No. 1; Cataract □, No. 2; St. Paul □, No. 3; Hennepin □, No. 4; Ancient Landmark □, No. 5; Shakopee □, No. 6; Dakota □, No. 7; Red Wing □, No. 8; Faribault □, No. 9; Pacific □, No. 10; Mantorville □, No. 11; Mankato □, No. 12; Henderson □, No. 13; Wapahasa □, No. 14; Monticello □, No. 16; Hokah □,

No. 17; Winona ▭, No. 18; Chatfield ▭, U.·. D.·.; North Star ▭, U.·. D.·.; Rochester ▭, U.·. D.·.; Wilton ▭, U.·. D.·.; Caledonia ▭, U.·. D.·.; Pleasant Grove ▭, U.·. D.·.

FRANK MANTOR,
J. T. FURBER,
GEO. L. OTIS. } Committee.

Brother Henry Reynolds made the following report:

The Committee on Work of ▭ U.·. D.·., would respectfully report that they have examined the work of Chatfield ▭ U.·. D.·., and find several irregularities and violations of the Constitution of this Grand ▭ in their Proceedings; your committee would, therefore, suggest that the Dispensation be renewed for one year longer.

Your committee have also examined the Work and By-Laws of Caledonia ▭ U.·. D.·., and would suggest that the ▭ amend Section 1, of Article 5, of their By Laws, so that all petitions for membership must lie over at least one Communication. The returns of the Work, with the exception of a few trifling informalities, they find correct, and therefore offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That a charter be granted to Caledonia ▭, No. —, upon their depositing the fees required by this Constitution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY REYNOLDS,
C. G. WYKOFF,
JOHN C. WHIPPLE. } Committee.

Which report was accepted, and the resolution agreed to.

Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until to morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

FOURTH DAY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1858, 9 O'Clock A. M.

Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson presiding, and a Constitutional number of ▭ being represented.

Prayer by a brother.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

Brother A. C. Smith moved to amend the Constitution of the Grand ▭ by adding at the end of the fifth paragraph, in subdivision two, of Section 63, the words "in person or by proxy."

Which motion was lost.

Brother C. G. Wykoff offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to issue charters to Pleasant Grove, Rochester and North Star ▭ U.·. D.·., on the usual terms, upon their presenting the certificate of the Grand Master that their work is approved.

R.·. W.·. Brother E. A. Hodsdon offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That ▭ U.·. D.·., applying to this Grand ▭ for charters, shall be hereafter required to send up their Dispensation and Records with their returns.

Brother I. P. Wright moved to amend the General Regulations of this Grand ☐ by striking out Section 84.

Which motion was lost.

Brother A. C. Smith, for the committee appointed at the last Grand Annual Communication, to report a form for installation of Grand officers, reported that they recommended the following, which was prepared by R.·. W.·. Brother A. G. Mackey, of South Carolina:

INSTALLATION OF THE OFFICERS OF A GRAND ☐.

The chair being taken by the Grand Master of the preceding year, or in his absence, by some other Past Grand or Past Deputy Grand Master, the Grand ☐ is opened in the first Degree of Masonry, so that all the Craft may be permitted to be present. The other chairs are filled by the officers who, having served their time, are about to retire from office.

The Grand Secretary then reads from the records of the Grand ☐ the names of the officers who have been elected to serve for the ensuing year. The Grand Master elect, preceded by the Grand Marshal, is then conducted by two Senior Deacons to the front of the pedestal, and the Grand Marshal says to the presiding Grand Officer:

Most Worshipful Sir:—You here see present at the pedestal, Brother A. B., who having been duly elected to preside over the Craft as their Grand Master, now declares himself ready for installation.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MASTER AT HIS INSTALLATION.

Let me congratulate you, Most Worshipful Sir, on the honor of being raised from the level of equality, to the high station of presiding over all the ☐ in Minnesota, and the Masonic jurisdiction thereof. We look up with confidence to a brother [whose age alone would entitle him to our respectful deference, but]* whose person is endeared to us, by that love of the Fraternity which is sanctified by the experience of many revolving years. May the Father of light, of life, and of love, invest you with his choicest gifts; may heavenly wisdom illumine your mind: may heavenly power give strength to your exertions; may heavenly goodness fill and enlarge your breast: may your feet rest upon the rock of justice; from your hands may streams of beneficence continually flow; and round your head may there bend a circle made splendid by the rays of honor; and late, very late in life, may you be transmitted from the fading honors of an earthly ☐, to the mansions prepared for the faithful in another and a better world.

Let me congratulate you, the Grand Officers and other brethren, on the election of our [venerable]* Grand Master. As it is *his* duty to *command*, according to our Constitutions, so it is *ours* with readiness to *obey*. Look to the sun and behold the planetary worlds revolving round him in continual order and harmony, with the happiest effect, and learn to imitate their regularity, in the hope of obtaining from the chair of *Solomon*, the light of wisdom and the warmth of love. Or look higher still, and behold the cherubim and seraphim, who are exhibited to us in the oracles of revelation, as flaming spirits burning with zeal and love before the throne of God. Behold the heavenly host, filled with love to their Creator, and love to our race. See these ministering spirits, exercising their kind offices to men, relieving their wants, securing them from danger, and endeavoring to promote their good.

> "Myriads of spiritual beings walk the earth
> Unseen, or when we sleep, or when we wake."

Of them let us learn to rise in our affection to the great Father of all, and thence descending, expand the heart from brother to brother, and to all

*What is included within brackets, must be omitted as occasion may require.

mankind. Of them let us learn, never to be weary in well doing, but to "mourn with them that mourn, and to rejoice with them that rejoice," until, having finished our work on earth, we shall be admitted to the temple above, "not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

The Grand Marshal then standing in front of the pedestal, says:

Brethren, behold your Grand Master!

Grand Master, behold your Brethren!

A procession of the Craft is then made three times round the □, and the Installation Ode is sung.

At the conclusion of the procession and ode, the Grand Marshal makes the following proclamation:

By the authority of the Most Worshipful Grand □ of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, I proclaim Most Worshipful Brother A. B., Grand Master of Masons, with the Grand Honors of Masonry, by three times three.

The *public Grand Honors* are given by all the brethren.

The new Grand Master then proceeds to install the rest of the Grand Officers, each of whom is introduced with the same ceremony before the pedestal, and presented by the Grand Marshal.

The Grand Marshal first introduces the Deputy Grand Master, saying:

Most Worshipful sir: You here see present at the pedestal, Brother C. D., who, having been duly elected to serve the Craft as their Deputy Grand Master, now declares himself ready for installation.

CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

Right Worshipful Brother:—The station to which you have been called by the suffrages of your brethren, is one of great dignity and much importance. In the absence of the Grand Master, you are to exercise his prerogatives in presiding over the Craft; in his presence you are to assist him with your counsel and co-operation. But while your powers and privileges are thus extensive, remember that they carry with them a heavy share of responsibility. The honor that has been conferred upon you, and the trust that has been reposed in you, demand a corresponding fidelity and attachment to the interests of those to whose kindness and confidence you are indebted for your official elevation. Let the Book of Constitutions be your constant study, that you may be the better enabled to preserve inviolate the laws and ancient landmarks of our Order, and that you may be ever ready to exercise the functions of that more exalted office to which you are so liable to be called. Receive this jewel of your office, and sit at our right hand to aid us with your counsel.

The remaining Grand Officers are introduced in like manner, by the Grand Marshal, and receive their appropriate charges as follows*:

CHARGE TO THE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN.

Right Worshipful Brother:—By the suffrages of your brethren, you have been elected their Senior Grand Warden, and we now invest you with the badge of your office.

Your regular attendance at the Communications of this Grand □ is essentially necessary. In the absence of the Grand Master and his Deputy, you are to govern the Craft; in their presence you are to strengthen and support the authority of your chief. We firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry, and your attachment to our Institution, for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust—*Look well to the West.*

CHARGE TO THE JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN.

Right Worshipful Brother:—By the suffrages of your brethren, you have been elected their Junior Grand Warden, and we now invest you with the badge of your office.

Your regular and punctual attendance at the Communications of the Grand □ is earnestly requested. In the absence of your superior officers

* When the former Grand Marshal has been re-elected, he is introduced to the pedestal by the Grand Pursuivant.

you are to govern the Craft; in their presence you will aid them in their arduous labors. We have no doubt that you will faithfully execute the duties which are incumbent on you in your present position—*Look well to the South.*

CHARGE TO THE GRAND TREASURER.

Right Worshipful Brother:—You have been elected to the responsible office of Grand Treasurer, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office.

It is your duty to receive all money due the Grand □, to make due entries of the same, and pay them out by order of the Grand Master, and with the consent and approbation of the Grand □. The office to which you have been appointed, embraces an important trust, and the choice of your brethren is an evidence of the high opinion they entertain of your fidelity and discretion.

We do not doubt that your regard for the Fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of your duties.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND SECRETARY.

Right Worshipful Brother:—You have been elected to the important office of Grand Secretary, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office.

It is your duty to observe all the proceedings of the Grand □, and to make a fair record of all things proper to be written. You are also the official organ of the Grand □, and in that capacity will conduct its various correspondence, and act as the medium of intercourse between the Fraternity and their Grand Master. In the discharge of these extensive duties, let your carriage and behavior be marked by that promptitude and discretion that will at once reflect credit on yourself, and honor on the body whom you represent.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND CHAPLAIN.

Most Reverend Brother:—The sacred position of Grand Chaplain has been entrusted to your care, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office.

In the discharge of your duties you will be required to lead the devotional exercises of our Grand Communications, and to perform the sacred functions of your holy calling at our public ceremonies. Though Masonry be not religion, it is emphatically religion's handmaid, and we are sure that in ministering at its altar, the services you may perform will lose nothing of their vital influence, because they are practiced in that spirit of universal tolerance which distinguishes our Institution. The doctrines of morality and virtue, which you are accustomed to inculcate to the world, as the minister of God, will form the appropriate lesson you are expected to communicate to your brethren in the □. The profession which you have chosen for your lot in life, is the best guarantee that you will discharge the duties of your present appointment with steadfastness and perseverance in well doing. The Holy Bible, that great light of Masonry, we entrust to your care.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND DEACONS.

Brethren:—You have been appointed the Grand Deacons of this Grand □, and we now invest you with the jewels of your office, and these rods as ensigns of your authority.

It is your province to attend upon the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the Grand □. Let vigilance and attention actuate you in the discharge of the functions of your office.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND MARSHAL.

Brother:—You have been appointed Grand Marshal, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office, and present you with this baton, as the ensign of your authority.

It is your duty to proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation; to arrange all processions of the Grand ▭, and to preserve order according to the forms prescribed. Skill and precision are essentially necessary to the faithful discharge of these duties.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND PURSUIVANT.

Brother:—You have been appointed Grand Pursuivant, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office, and entrust this sword of state to your keeping.

Your station is near the door, whence you will receive all reports from the Grand Tyler, and announce the name and Masonic rank of all who desire admission. You will see that none enter without wearing their appropriate decorations. You will also carry the Grand Sword of State in all public processions, and perform such other duties as appertain to your office. Your early and punctual attendance at all Communications of the Grand ▭ is essentially necessary.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND STEWARDS.

Brethren:—You have been appointed Grand Stewards, and we now invest you with the jewels of your office, and place in your hands these white rods as ensigns of your station.

It is your duty to superintend the tables at the hour of refreshment, and see that every brother is suitably provided. It is, therefore, indispensably necessary that you yourselves should be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, carefully observing that none of the Craft transgress the true bounds of moderation in the enjoyment of their pleasures.

CHARGE TO THE TYLER.

Brother:—You have been appointed Tyler of this Grand ▭, and we now invest you with the jewel of your office, and place this sword in your hands, the more effectually to enable you to guard against the approach of cowans and evesdroppers, and to suffer none to pass or repass but such as are duly qualified.

It is your duty to guard the door of the Grand ▭ on the outside; to report to the Grand Pursuivant those who desire to be admitted; to summon the members of the Grand ▭, under the direction of the Grand Secretary, and to attend to such other duties as may be required of you by the Grand ▭. Your punctual attendance is essentially necessary at every Communication.

The Grand Marshal then makes proclamation as follows:

By the authority of the Most Worshipful Grand ▭ of the Most Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, I proclaim that the Grand and Subordinate Officers have been installed in ample form with the Grand Honors of Masonry by three times three.

The public Grand Honors are then given, and the brethren make the response:

So mote it be.

Some ode is then sung.

An address may then be delivered, by any brother appointed for the occasion. After which the Grand Chaplain pronounces the benediction, and the Grand ▭ is closed in ample form.

Which report was accepted, and on motion, was unanimously adopted.

R.·. W.·. Brother Mower moved that the circular from the Foreign Correspondence Committee of the Grand ▭ of Maine, relative to the formation of a General Grand ▭, be taken from the table and referred to the committee on that part of the Grand Master's address relating to the same subject.

Which motion prevailed.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand □ a bound volume of the Proceedings of the Grand □ of California, from 1850 to 1854, inclusive, received from R.·. W.·. Bro. Abell, Grand Secretary.

On motion of Bro. Bryant,

Resolved, That the same be preserved in the archives of this Grand □, and a letter of thanks returned for the gift.

M.·. W.·. A. E. Ames made the following report:

To the M.·. W.·. G.·. L.·. of Minnesota:

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to a General Grand Body, together with the circular from the M.·. W.·. Grand □ of Maine, respectfully report:

That the portion of the Grand Master's address referred to them, is a reiteration of the position assumed by this Grand □ at the Annual Communication of 1856, and therefore offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Grand □ approves of the action of the M.·. W.·. Grand □ of Maine, and will, at the proper time, select its representation.

A. E. Ames,
Wm. H. Wolff,
A. C. Smith. } Committee.

Which report was accepted, and the resolution unanimously agreed to.

M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. A. E. Ames then proceeded to install in due form, Bro. A. T. C. Pierson as M.·. W.·. Grand Master for the ensuing Masonic year; who thereupon duly installed the remaining Grand Officers, to wit:

R.·. W.·. D. B. Loomis, of Stillwater, Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. Frank Mantor, Mantorville, Senior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. A. C. Smith, Minneapolis, Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. Emanuel Case, Minneapolis, Grand Treasurer.
R.·. W.·. Geo. W. Prescott, St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master announced the appointment of the following Subordinate Officers:

W.·. Rev. Bro. J. Penman, St. Paul, Grand Chaplain.
" Bro Samuel Adams, Monticello, Grand Marshal.
" " George Maxfield, Mankato, Grand Standard Bearer.
" " C. G. Wykoff, Hokah, Grand Sword Bearer.
" " J. H. Spear, Minneapolis, Senior Grand Deacon.
" " J. S. Campbell, Winona, Junior Grand Deacon.
" " J. C. Whipple, Faribault, Grand Pursuivant.
" " Wm. H. Wolff, St. Paul, Senior Grand Steward.
" " Wm. V. Athey, Henderson, Junior Grand Steward.
" " A. Richardson, St. Paul, Grand Treasurer.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence, Bros. G. W. Prescott, Henry Reynolds, and Wm. H. Mower.

Bro. H. Reynolds made the following report:

The Committee on Work of ⊟ U.·. D.·. would respectfully report that they have had under consideration the Work and returns of Wilton □, U.·. D.·., and find the following errors in their Work, which they present to this Grand □ for their consideration, viz:

Your committee find that immediately after the brethren received their Dispensation, they elected all their officers below Junior Warden by a vote of the ▭, and that in the month of December last, they elected *all* their officers by a vote of the ▭, thereby placing other brethren in the first three stations than those appointed by the M.·. W.·. Grand Master in his Dispensation. Your committee believe this to be entirely inconsistent with the laws of Masonry, and hope that the error will be avoided in the future by other ▭ U.·. D.·.

Your committee also find that the term "called off," occurs in their minutes, but as this matter was brought before the Grand ▭ at its last Communication, your committee would merely refer Wilton ▭ to a resolution passed by this Grand ▭ at that time.

Your committee also find that on October 1st, 1857, the committee appointed on the petition of Mr. ———, reported favorably, but objections were made to balloting, and on motion, the application was withdrawn.

Your committee are aware that a diversity of opinion exists among the various Grand ▭ in regard to the right of a brother to withdraw the petition of an applicant for the Degrees in Masonry, after it has been acted on by the ▭; and as this Grand ▭ has not expressed an opinion upon the subject, your committee would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That a petition for the Degrees in Masonry cannot be withdrawn from a ▭ unless favorably reported upon by the Committee of Investigation, and then only by unanimous vote of the ▭.

With these exceptions, your committee approve of the work of Wilton ▭ U.·. D.·., and believing that they will promptly correct the errors alluded to, when advised of them, your committee would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That a charter be issued to Wilton ▭, No. —, upon their depositing the fees required by the regulations of this Grand ▭.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY REYNOLDS,
C. G. WYKOFF,
J. C. WHIPPLE. } Committee.

Which report was accepted, and on motion, the resolutions reported were unanimously agreed to.

A petition for a charter was received from the Senior Warden of Glencoe ▭ U.·. D.·., and was, on motion, laid on the table.

Brother Henry Reynolds offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That Section 82, Title 1, of the General Regulations of this Grand ▭, be amended by striking out in the first line the words "in the city of Saint Paul," and inserting after the word "January," in the second line, the words "at such place as shall have been designated at the previous Communication."

The resolution was not agreed to.

The Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until 7 o'clock this evening.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8th, 1858, 7 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. Grand Master Pierson, presiding.

R.·. W.·. Brother Mower offered the following resolutions, which were severally adopted:

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated as a full compensation to the Grand Secretary for his services during the past Masonic year.

Resolved, that the sum of Twenty-five dollars be, and the same is hereby

appropriated as a full compensation to the Grand Tyler for his services during the present Communication.

Brother Middaugh offered the following amendment to the General Regulations of this Grand □, which was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present:

Resolved, That Sec. 82, of Title 1, of the General Regulations of this Grand □, be amended by striking out the words "on the first Tuesday in January," and inserting in lieu thereof the following, "on the fourth Tuesday in October."

The section as amended reads as follows:

Sec. 82. The Grand □ shall meet annually in the city of St. Paul, on the fourth Tuesday in October, at which meeting the Grand Officers shall be selected and installed, and all matters affecting the Craft in this jurisdiction, shall be considered and acted upon. Special Communications may be held, &c., (not changed.)

The committee appointed to prepare a Pay Roll of members, reported the following, which was adopted:

PAY ROLL OF MEMBERS.

NAME OF LODGE.	No. Lodge.	No. Days.	Per Day.	Travel'g Expenses	Total.	TO WHOM PAYABLE.
Saint John's,	1	4	$3 00	$4 00	$16 00	L. E. Thompson.
Cataract,	2	4	3 00	2 00	14 00	H. Reynolds.
Saint Paul	3	4	3 00		12 00	N. W. Kittson.
Hennepin,	4	4	3 00	2 00	14 00	A. E. Ames.
Ancient Landmark,	5	4	3 00		12 00	C. W. Carpenter.
Shakopee,	6	4	3 00	5 00	17 00	J. M. Kerlinger.
Dakota,	7	4	3 00	4 00	16 00	J. T. Furber.
Red Wing,	8	4	3 00	8 00	20 00	C. H. Connelly.
Faribault,	9	4	3 00	9 00	21 00	J. C. Whipple.
Pacific,	10	4	3 00		12 00	W. H. Wolff.
Mantorville,	11	4	3 00	14 00	26 00	Frank Mantor.
Mankato,	12	4	3 00	14 00	26 00	George Maxfield.
Henderson,	13	4	3 00	10 00	*16 00	W. V. Athey.
Wapahasa,	14	4	3 00	14 00	26 00	S. L. Campbell.
Saint Cloud,	15	...				
Monticello,	16	4	3 00	11 00	*18 00	S. E. Adams.
Hokah,	17	4	3 00	28 00	*34 50	C. G. Wykoff.
Winona,	18	4	3 00	18 00	30 00	J. S. Campbell.
Grand Treasurer,		4	3 00	2 00	14 00	Emanuel Case.
Total,	...	...			$344 50	

* Whole amount of dues paid Grand □.

I. P. WRIGHT,
R. R. BRYANT,
L. BRANSON. } Committee.

The reports of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer were received and referred to the Committee on Secretary's and Treasurer's Books, who reported them back as follows:

REPORT OF GRAND SECRETARY.

Geo. W. Prescott in account with Grand □.

Received for Dispensations:

Chatfield □, U.·. D.·.	$20 00	
Rochester □, U.·. D.·.	20 00	
Wilton □, U.·. D.·.	20 00	
Caledonia □, U.·. D.·.	20 00	
Glencoe □, U.·. D.·.	20 00	
North Star □, U.·. D.·.	20 00	
		$120 00
Received for □ Registries, 3 books,	6 00	

Received dues from ▭ as follows:

Saint John's, No. 1,	$24 00	
Cataract, No. 2,	45 00	
Saint Paul, No. 3,	62 00	
Hennepin, No. 4,	71 00	
Ancient Landmark, No. 5,	78 00	
Shakopee, No. 6,		
Dakotah, No. 7,	58 50	
Red Wing, No. 8,		
Faribault, No. 9,	39 50	
Pacific, No. 10,	33 00	
Mantorville, No. 11,	87 50	
Mankato, No. 12,		
Henderson, No. 13,	16 00	
Wapahasa, No. 14,	46 50	
Saint Cloud, No. 15,		
Monticello, No. 16,	18 00	
Hokah, No. 17,	34 50	
Winona, No. 18,	35 00	
		$648 50

Received for charter and dues from

Wilton ▭, U.·. D.·.	53 00	
Pleasant Grove ▭, U.·. D.·.	90 00	
North Star ▭, U.·. D.·.	30 00	
Caledonia ▭, U.·. D.·.	26 00	
Rochester ▭, U.·. D.·.	45 00	
Chatfield ▭, U.·. D.·., dues,	26 00	
Minneapolis ▭, No. 19,	45 00	
		$315 00
Total,		$1,089 50

Contra.

Amount paid as per pay roll,	$344 50	
Amount paid J. M. Hoisington for books,	24 00	
Amount paid for postage,	10 00	
Amount paid for charters, balance,	22 50	
Amount paid Grand Treasurer,	688 50	
		$1,089 50

Attest: GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *G.·. S.·.*

REPORT OF GRAND TREASURER.

1857. *E. Case in account with Grand ▭ Charity Fund:*

Jan. 9. Balance on hand as per report of 1857,	$846 25	
		$846 25
Oct. 21. Paid order of M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. to Goodrich, Somers & Co., for printing,	245 00	
Paid order of M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. for new charters and Registry Books,	164 00	
		409 00
1858. Balance on hand,		$437 25
Received from Grand Secretary,	$688 50	
Paid salary of Grand Secretary, $200 00		
Paid Grand Tyler, 25 00		
	225 00	
		463 50
Balance in my hands,		$900 75

Attest, E. CASE, *G.·. T.·.*

The committee appointed to examine the Secretary's and Treasurer's Books, report that they have examined the foregoing accounts rendered by said officers, and find them correct.

D. B. LOOMIS,
J. M. KERLINGER, } Committee.
GEO. MAXFIELD.

The report was accepted and adopted.

On motion, ordered that the Grand Secretary omit the names of members of Subordinate ▭ in the printed Proceedings.

The Most Worshipful Grand ▭ of Minnesota having closed their labors, after remarks from different members and prayer by a brother, the same was closed in ample form.

A. T. C. PIERSON, *Grand Master.*

Attest:

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *Grand Secretary.*

Next Grand Annual Communication to be held in the city of Saint Paul on the fourth Tuesday in October, A.·. L.·. 5858.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of Minnesota:

Your committee on Foreign Correspondence find before them in commencing their labors, the printed Proceedings of Arkansas, Connecticut, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, and Wisconsin. The Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Alabama, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Rhode Island, we regret to say, were not received. The Grand Secretary has been particular to forward to each of the above named Grand ▭ copies of our Proceedings, and hopes by another year at least to lay before this Grand ▭ the record of each of the thirty-four jurisdictions within the United States. This being a young Grand Body, far to the North—though *not quite* up to that point "where neither sun nor moon, at its meridian height, can dart a ray,"—we are naturally anxious to get from our Elder Sisters all the light and knowledge which they can dispense, and hope they will be particular to take due notice and govern themselves accordingly. We commence our review with

ARKANSAS.

Grand Annual Communication held at Little Rock, November 3, 1856. The abstract of returns from Subordinate ▱ for the year 1856, gives the whole number of ▱ as one hundred and three—of these, seven made no returns. Number of members reported, three thousand and forty-eight. Number of initiations, four hundred and sixty. The Grand Master, M.·. W.·. Brother N. G. Smith, announces the granting of thirty Dispensations. His address is practical and pointed. He says:

"Efficient officers make efficient ▱. 'Like Priests, like people,' is no truer, ecclesiastically, than like Officers, like ▱, is Masonically. * * *

"Not only should the Master of a ▭ be familiar with all the lectures and ceremonies connected with his station, but he should be also 'apt to teach;' should be able to enforce and illustrate the moral excellencies of our ancient Institution in such a manner as not only to instruct the Fraternity by informing their minds and enlightening their judgments, but by presenting those truths in so forcible a manner, and clothed in such habiliments of beauty as to captivate the fancy and interest the affections so as to make all the listeners fall in love with and practice those virtues so frequently inculcated by our lectures."

Reading this, and more to the same effect, your committee were forced to exclaim, "Who is sufficient for these things?" How many are there in each ▭ who possess in combination, those rare qualities of wisdom to instruct, tact to preside, aptness to teach, eloquence to captivate the fancy, and winning sweetness to interest the affections; so that he who occupies the east, being from the multitude of his perfections, "all and in all," may say in its enlarged sense "*one* is your Master, *even I*, and all ye are brethren?" We are not disposed to cavil, but paragons are scarce in the everyday world, and the best rulers are not always the aptest teachers; neither are the best teachers always orators, nor do orators always draw our love in the same net with our fancy. We agree in the following conclusion of the whole matter:

"But, my dear brethren, after all that has been said, the very best qualification of all for a M.·. of a ▭ to possess is, to be deeply imbued with the spirit of the moral law of God—of Masonry. I therefore recommend the study of the moral law to all Masters of ▱, and the fulfillment of your obligations in obeying its precepts: for without this, all your fine gold becomes brass, your instructions lose their force and influence, and your government becomes inefficient; but with this all goes on well, harmony and peace prevail, brotherly love abounds, and the ▭ prospers."

We have only to add to the above that the Master who may be like Moses, wise to rule but "slow of speech and of a slow tongue," may always find some brother Aaron who "can speak well," and some brother Paul who can write well, and plenty of brethren to stay up his hands; and by setting all these at work in their proper spheres, he will soon find each member a brother John who can love

well; so that out of a diversity of gifts shall come harmony of action, in which "the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you;" but all the ▭, "fitly framed together, groweth into an holy Temple in the Lord."

"Without strict discipline," continues the Grand Master, "rigidly enforced, while at work, a ▭ cannot get along well. The presiding officer should never allow the brethren, while in session, to indulge in whispering or talking, and never permit levity or laughter during the hours of labor. In the opening and closing ceremonies due solemnity and impressive devotion should always be observed and strictly enforced." The Master is also advised to deliver addresses to his ▭ and invite and encourage general discussion among the members, of Masonic matters. The right to dimit is conceded, but a member's "withdrawing or dimitting from a ▭ and remaining in an unaffiliated state, constitutes that unworthiness that absolves the ▭ and Fraternity from all pecuniary obligations to him and deprives him of all the benefits of Masonry, except those of a peculiar character which admit of no discussion." And of unaffiliated Masons, the following short work is made: "What can be said of this class of men? Unaffiliated Masons? The very word itself is a solecism, and so is the class it designates; for it is impossible to isolate or disintegrate Freemasons, as the very term itself carries with it association or Fraternity. Nevertheless such nondescript characters do exist among us, and we are bound to acknowledge the lamented fact. Does not the graphic description in holy writ apply to them when it says in delineating certain characters, 'these are spots in your feasts of charity when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth—wandering stars?' Yet, my brethren, let us treat them with tenderness and courtesy, and try and win them back to paths of fear and rectitude and Masonic obedience." The Grand Master submits the decisions made by him during the year. The following are among them:

"The ballot should always be spread whether the Investigating Committee report favorably or unfavorably. An entry should never be made, either on the petition or ▭ books, of how the committee reported.

"It is inexpedient to elect a candidate to all the symbolical degrees at one balloting, and should never be done only in cases of emergency—which rarely occur."

In regard to the first of these decisions, we alluded last year to the unpleasant position of a committee compelled by duty to report adversely upon a petition; and although it is the practice of some—perhaps all—of the ▭ in this jurisdiction, to make a record of the reports of investigating committees, yet it seems to us that the de-

cision of G.·. M.·. Smith is correct, in classing them among the things not proper to be written.

Upon the question of the expediency or inexpediency of balloting for the three Degrees together, we cannot agree with our Most Worshipful Brother. To a person asking initiation, the ☐ is under no obligation. Harmony being the strength and support of our Institution, a single dissenting vote can forever bar the door against him, without betraying the hand that cast it or the reason that prompted it. There can be no surprise—no advantage taken of accidental absence from a Stated Communication; at no other than the Stated Communications, which are regulated by the ☐ Laws, can the petition be received, or in any manner disposed of. It must go into the hands of a committee, and the applicant must stand the test of their zealous scrutiny. It must lie over until another Stated Communication—thus giving every member who is at all anxious about the proceedings of the ☐, abundant opportunity to ascertain what persons are seeking to take him by the hand as a brother. If, after all this scrutiny and delay, the applicant is unanimously permitted to pass our portals and look upon our mysteries, why should he again—and yet again—be subjected to the danger of being stopped upon a journey which we have allowed him to commence, by a nameless objection from an unknown source? The whole ☐ has, through its Master, given him a token of brotherly love and affection, and it seems hardly consistent to assume that harmony and peace will be promoted by, as it were, falsifying that token without letting even the Master who pledged it, know for what or by whom.

Again:—Applicants petition to become *members* of our Order—they ask for the three Degrees of Masonry to be conferred upon them. No one would desire to become an Entered Apprentice unless he intended to go further—he would not pay his money and devote his time for what could avail him nothing. And if there must be a separate ballot upon each Degree, where should that ballot be had? Why not in an Entered Apprentice ☐ for the first Degree, and in a Fellow Craft's ☐ for the second. It strikes us that "parity of reasoning" would require it.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence review the Proceedings of twenty-three Grand Bodies—we cull the following extracts:

"Your committee admit that there may be cases where the unaffiliated Mason should be buried with Masonic honors—as where he has removed from the jurisdiction of a ☐ of which he was a member, and dies before he can affiliate with the ☐ into whose jurisdiction he removes—and for such cases provision should be made. But we regret to see a single step in favor of unaffiliated Masons."

The Alabama committee are quoted as saying:—"In fact we are constantly told that pure and unadulterated Masonry, or traces of it,

may be found all over the world: among civilized and savage—among those who never heard that there was such a thing as a Bible. Now, either these reports must be the merest fables, or else a belief in the authenticity of the scriptures, or as the committee [in Ohio] expresses it, their truth is not necessary in the Mason. The Jews, the followers of Confucius, the Mahommedan, each, either reject the New Testament or the Old, or both; and yet we see no good reason why they should not be made Masons. In short, Blue ▭ Masonry has nothing whatever to do with the Bible."

"The Arkansas committee say upon this subject:—'Your committee cannot but think that the addition of this or any other *new test*, is not only a wide departure from the old regulations, but a dangerous innovation, leading to consequences that can be foreseen by no one. * * * The Grand ▭ [of Iowa] adopted a resolution: 'That Masonry, as we have received it from our fathers, teaches the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, and that the views of candidates on this subject should be ascertained by the Committee on Inquiry, or otherwise, as well as their other qualifications and fitness to be received into the Order.'

'Masonry, whether so received from their fathers or not, seems progressive in Ohio, Indiana and Iowa; and whether in addition to this new test of qualification, they may not, in the future, require some peculiar construction of those scriptures—some exclusive religious tenets—remains to be seen. We protest against all such innovations; we do so while professing as profound a reverence for the Holy Scriptures as the most zealous brother in either State; we do so while admitting that no one denying the Divine authenticity of both,—the old and the new—could enter with our consent. We find it not so written in the old law, nor have we so received it from our fathers."

"The Grand ▭ of Alabama, (we continue our quotations,) requires that the petitioners for a Dispensation shall deposit with the Grand Secretary, certificates of dismissal from the ▭ of which they were last members. * *

"This Grand ▭, [Arkansas,] holds that when a Dispensation is granted, the petitioners are invested, conditionally, with all the powers of a regular chartered ▭, and are thereby dimitted from the ▭ of which they were members, and the practice has been, though we know not when it originated, nor how it is sustained, to admit the officers to seats in the Grand ▭ upon the grant of a Charter. * * * * * *

"With us it is the practice for ▭ under Dispensation to make Masons, admit them by affiliation, and do all acts pertaining to a regularly constituted ▭ except to elect their officers, make their own By-Laws, and vote in the Grand ▭."

The New York Committee on Correspondence are quoted as asserting a "fact, which is generally conceded by Grand ▭ and Masonic jurists, that a ▭ working under dispensation, can not make *members* under the ordinary powers which are given it by the instrument which thus primarily creates them into a Masonic body. Even the petitioners who unite into the formation of such a body, remain members of the ▭ to which they belonged, on petitioning, and are liable for their dues therein until a charter be granted to them as a new ▭."

Our Grand ▭ Constitution declares that "A ▭ under dispensation is but a temporary and inchoate body, and is not entitled to representation in the Grand ▭, and those who work it do not forfeit

their membership thereby in any other ▭ while it so continues, but such membership is thereby suspended."

In the Proceedings we notice the appointment of a committee "to prepare and report at the next Communication of this Grand ▭ a Code of By-Laws for the government of Subordinate ▭ under the jurisdiction of this Grand ▭, which, if adopted, shall be distributed at the expense of this Grand ▭." D. F. Armstrong was elected Grand Master, and T. D. Herrick, Grand Secretary.

CONNECTICUT.

Grand Annual Communication at Hartford, May 13, 1857. Number of ▭, eighty-four; members, four thousand four hundred and sixty-three; initiations, four hundred and fifty-five; dispensations granted, five. Grand Master Brewer, in his address exclaims against "the great desire which prevails to increase the number of initiations," and says:

"Ours is especially a social institution, where brethren meet on a level to cultivate the better feelings of the heart, and to promote the love and the practice of that morality which is founded in the principles of Divine truth. These principles must be understood if they are to be followed and enjoyed. When a ▭ is driven with Work to that degree that allows of scarcely anything else, it is evident that some of the chief benefits of our Order are lost sight of. Another evil consists in the rapidity with which the several Degrees are conferred. In many cases candidates are hastened so rapidly from one deparment to another of our Mystic Temple, that they have neither the time nor the opportunity to appreciate or even discover the furniture with which they are adorned. * * * * The question 'has he made suitable proficiency in the preceding Degree,' should not be a mere formula."

The Grand Master was presented with a gavel made from the wood of the famous Charter Oak. Resolutions were passed, among others deprecating the "connecting of dancing with Freemasonry, or using the name or symbols of Masonry in connection with balls."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence say:

"We have had the pleasure of examining the official reports of twenty-six of the thirty-five Grand ▭ organizations in the States and Territories, from which we are enabled to compile some interesting and valuable, though imperfect statistics. It will be seen by reference to a table at the close of this report, that there are in these twenty-six Masonic jurisdictions, three thousand two hundred and eighty-nine Subordinate ▭ at work, while twenty-one Grand ▭ report an aggregate membership of one hundred and thirteen thousand nine hundred and eight. The number of initiations reported in twenty Grand ▭ jurisdictions, is eighteen thousand and thirty-three. The number of rejected candidates for the honors of Masonry, so far as reported during the past year, was one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight; deaths, one thousand three hundred and twenty-nine; expulsions, four hundred and eighty-five. The amount of cash revenue received into the treasuries of twenty-four Grand ▭, as we gather from their reports, is $98,199 77."

As we have nothing from the Grand ▭ of Alabama, we will avail ourselves of this report to copy the following from the Grand Master's address of that State:

"In September last I received a communication from the W.·. Master of Geneva □, No. 129, containing in substance the following statement, 'Brother A. ——— arose in the □ and stated that he desired to *withdraw entirely* from Masonry, and have no further connection whatever with it. He also stated that he had joined a church opposed to all secret societies; he desired to conform to the rules of that church. He has no ill feeling to the Masonic society, or to any brothers. He is in good standing, and has paid all his dues. He wished that it might be well understood that his withdrawal was something more than a dimit; that it should have the effect of placing him in that situation which he would have occupied had he never joined the Fraternity. What course should the □ pursue?'

"I recommend the □ to grant him a dimit, it being the only means of withdrawal known to our Institution; and to inform him that it was not in their power to change the past or undo what had been already accomplished. There is no Masonic law forbidding a withdrawal from an active participation with his brethren in Masonic duties, but no power could relieve him from his moral and personal obligation to perform them. And indeed it does seem that anciently it was thought not to be consistent with the duty of a Mason to remain unaffiliated with some □; for we find in the 'old charges,' sec. 3, 'of ⊟,' the last clause of the first sentence, these words, 'every brother ought to belong to one.' Owing, no doubt, to some yielding to the clamors of those who are not entitled to a better name than drones in our society, this old charge has, in that respect, been sadly neglected. * * * * * It is not however pretended that the case from Geneva □, (which is not the only one, precisely similar, presented to me this year,) stands on the same ground with that of a common withdrawal. It occupies a far different position, and must be reviewed from a different standpoint. If the brother who had connected himself with a church whose discipline forbade him to be a member of a secret society, felt that his conscience would not allow him to remain affiliated with the □, and a participant of its labors—if he believed that such an association was an impediment to him in his efforts to reach a happy home after the toils of this life are ended, 'where the wicked cease from trouble, and the weary are at rest,' then it was his duty to withdraw, and we can only say, let him go in peace. Let him be informed that it was still obligatory upon him to conduct himself in such a way as not to bring reproach upon us—that he was still required to obey the moral law, for having once freely consented thereto, what power on earth can absolve him from this duty."

We believe every one will agree with the committee that the Grand Master's decision was right. In the Masonic Magazine, vol. 6, page 4, as quoted in the Mystic Circle, page 387, is the following:—"If a brother withdraws from the Institution, and for the sake of peace, says to his church, that he will not have anything further to do with it, if he does not belie and abuse it, let him go. You have no means of compelling him to attend □ meetings. He is nevertheless a Mason, and all his original Masonic obligations rest upon him. * * * Non-attendance of □ meetings will not justify expulsion, and this is the only offence he commits in quietly withdrawing from the Institution."

In regard to ⊟ under dispensation, the committee say:

"It may be, and probably is true, that such a body is in some sense a □, at least so far as the authority to make Masons is involved; but so far as we have been able to discover, the best authorities agree that such a □ is not empowered to *receive* members, nor are its officers entitled to installation. The persons made Masons therein can not even become members of that particular body, and have no right to vote therein, until

the ▭ is duly *chartered*. Every Mason knows that a ▭ is a certain number of Masons duly assembled, with the proper implements of the Craft, "*and* a charter or warrant empowering them to work." Now, as we understand the matter, the dispensation of a Grand Master is *not* such a "charter or warrant," but merely a document of temporary existence, authorizing certain individuals to perform certain acts *till the next meeting of the Grand* ▭, when all the authority of the instruments come to an end. If otherwise, why come to the Grand ▭ at all for a charter? Why not act perpetually under the dispensation? As to the persons receiving the Degrees in a ▭ under dispensation, doubtless they are *Masons*, because the mysteries of Masons have been regularly and lawfully entrusted to them. They may become members of that ▭ on its receiving a charter, and in case no charter is issued, they may become members of some other ▭ in the usual way."

Brother Wm. L. Brewer was re-elected Grand Master, and Bro. E. G. Storer, Grand Secretary.

CALIFORNIA.

Grand Annual Communication held at Sacramento, May 12, 1857. Number of ▭▭, 113; members, 4,282; initiations, 903; dispensations, 11. Grand Master Howard reports the general condition of the Craft as satisfactory, but refers to the Grand ▭ several cases of difficulty and discipline in Subordinate ▭▭. One charter was arrested, and the Masters of two ▭▭ were suspended. The following extracts from M.·. W.·. Brother Howard's address, are well worth copying:

"I would rather hear of the affiliation of one worthy applicant than of the initiation of a score of candidates. It argues better for the safety and well-being of the Institution. There was a time, it is said, when few except the good and true either sought for or gained admission into Masonic ▭▭, for it was thought that such alone could find their affinities there. Masons were then comparatively few, and were generally known and distinguished for those qualifications which the teachings of the Order require on the part of all who apply for admission. They were not of those who sought for admission into the ▭ to gain admission into society through Masonic influence.

They were not of those who would make merchandize of its benefits by prostituting them to the purposes of individual emolument. They were not of those who would seek through Masonic appliances to re-invigorate a decaying reputation, and gain a prominence within the ▭ that was unattainable without it; or worse still, to use its influence to gain prominency elsewhere. They were few, but good men and true, and practiced in the New Hampshire the doctrines and teachings which they had inherited from their brethren of the Old. But the day of an unwonted prosperity came, the spirit of innovation, whose slight tracings had been visible in the Old World, found a more extended field of operations among the ardent spirits of the New. The honors of Masonry embraced a wider range than had been known to our ancient brethren, and in the pursuit of them the ground-work and principles of Masonry were sometimes lost sight of by those who run past the substance to grasp at a lumious shadow beyond. Masonry floated upon the tide of popular favor. Its fancied honors and distinctions were coveted and eagerly sought after, and were sometimes acquired by those who were not over scrupulous as to their use. The world saw that they were desirable, and the world rushed to the threshold of her temples to knock for admission into her courts. The brethren were flattered by the numerous accessions to their ranks, and in contemplating the bright galaxy of stars that gleamed upon her horizon, lost sight of the *ignis fatuus* creations of the impure atmosphere which had been gathering around her al-

tars. Lulled into a fancied security, the day of adversity came when least expected—the hand of the assassin was raised in the circle of her worshippers, and the torch of the incendiary prepared for the house of her habitation. The tide of popular fury was directed against her temples, and the mercenary crowd who had shouted hozannas, rejoiced in contemplation of the smoldering ruins. * * * * Time has flown rapidly since then. Its ever varying events have exhibited their countless changes, and the opinions of men in reference to Masonry have had their changes also—she has gained an unprecedented popularity with the masses. The admiring world is rushing to her altars—the just and the unjust—the false and the true—the man of good repute, and of doubtful fame have been treading her courts together, and doubts are being engendered as to what will be her future. How shall we avert the impending danger? How remedy the evil which an indiscriminate accession to our ranks is threatening to bring upon us? There is but one method, and that is, to *do our duty*, mildly but firmly, and *without fear or favor*. If bad men, or men of doubtful repute, apply to us for a recommendation to the □, let them be told that the Institution will not suit their habits or their tastes, and they can not expect to find enjoyment when they can find no affinities to lead to it. As well might Satan seek to find true enjoyment in Paradise, as for an unworthy man to seek for it in a pure and well-governed □."

The Grand Master is *down* on the "Side Degrees," so called, in an especial manner. A committee upon the subject made a very emphatic report, which closed with the following resolution:—"That the "side Degrees," so called, form no part of legitimate Masonry, and the conferring them hereafter within Masonic □ rooms, is prohibited throughout this jurisdiction." The whole matter was laid over until the next Annual Communication. Upon the subject of introducing more than one candidate at a time, the following remark is made:—"The requirements of the old ritual would seem to indicate that only one candidate at a time can, with propriety, be initiated, passed, or raised, and this forms the basis of the requirements of this jurisdiction."

"In my address last year, I argued against that provision of the old charges which required that a Master of a □ should previously have served as Warden. I am apprehensive that in doing so I have in some degree favored that tendency to innovation, which has become one of the crying evils of our time, and which has been more apparent to me since those remarks were penned. I shall, therefore, frankly acknowledge the error which I then fell into in my strong desire to insure proficiency in the presiding officers of our □; and by abandoning the position then assumed, yield my reasoning to the force of facts; as 'no brother can be a Warden until he has passed the post of a Fellow Craft—*nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden.*'"

The Grand □ Constitution provides that no Mason shall be a member of more than one chartered □ at the same time, and his becoming a member of a □ under dispensation, (being a petitioner for such □,) *suspends* his membership in the old □. The Grand Master objects to this suspension, not believing in its propriety or correctness. "I think it an injudicious interference with the lawfully incurred responsibility of the individual as well as with the local regulations of his □. I would rather let him enjoy his privi-

leges and pay his dues, and if he sees proper to contribute of his means to the support of a new ▭ in addition thereto, let him do so —it is his own affair, and should, I think, be left to his own will."

The following quotation is made, not to offend the brethren in Minnesota by intimating that any of them would be guilty of, or suffer in a ▭ member, even, such unusual departures from the teachings of Masonry, but only to show what very wicked and unmasonic Masons are to be found in California :

"It may seem strange that Masons should ever make use of abusive epithets or other improper language towards one another, and yet, I have known it done. It may seem strange that Masons should deal unjustly with one another, and yet, complaint has often been made. It would seem strange that Masons should be found pursuing a line of conduct in contravention of the laws of the land, and calculated to bring reproach upon the Craft, and yet, it is said that such is sometimes the case. It would seem strange that Masons should be found reveling in riot and excess, and yet they are seen. But strangest of all would it seem that Masons should even be found profane to that degree of excess that would make a novitiate in impiety blush, and yet I have heard that august name, at mention of which archangels bow their heads, and the powers of darkness are seized with fear and trembling, used as a common by-word; and often spoken irreverently by those who are expected to set a better example, and whose almost only fault is sometimes this."

Seriously, we fear honesty will compel us to acknowledge that the above remarks have some application here, and would suggest to the Masters and Wardens in Grand ▭, that upon returning to the Subordinates, they look after, warn against and *correct* such practices.

Brother Abell, Chairman of the Masonic Board of Relief, announces that the expenditure for benevolence during the preceding twelve months by five ▭ in San Francisco, amounted to nearly $4000.

Certain brethren of the Jewish faith having prayed the Grand ▭ to express some opinion upon the action of the Grand ▭ of Hanover, in declaring Masonry to be strictly a *Christian* Institution, the matter was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence; and their report, "That Masonry is not only not especially a Christian Order, but that it is not a religious one at all except in so far as it requires a belief in the existence and omnipotence of a Supreme Being and the observance of the Moral Law," was concurred in.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is in Brother Abell's usual style—wit, good humor and learning characterizing it throughout. The Proceedings of thirty-one Grand Bodies are reviewed. Grand ▭, their own among the number, get a rap for a kind of legislation which, while it is very safe, does little more than make the reader think that a ray from a very old truth has just penetrated a very dark corner, to wit—"The grave enactment

of the commonest truisms, without the faintest shadow of that mandatory and penal character which alone could make them of any use. Some well-meaning and most zealous brother, more anxious, perhaps, to to do good than skilled in the method of accomplishing it, or, it may be, a little desirous to see his name in the published proceedings, in juxtaposition with a moral sentiment, offers a resolution involving simply the assertion of the most palpable truth, and the Grand ▭ good naturedly, most solemnly resolves that it really is true." The committee say of a By-Law adopted by the Grand ▭ of Michigan for the government of Subordinate ▭, making *expulsion* the penalty for non-payment of dues within a reasonable time after suspension for the same cause. "It seems to us not at all consonant with the principles embodied in the fourth of our cardinal virtues, that for the mere non-payment of certain dollars, the same heavy punishment should be meted out as is inflicted for the gravest misdemeanors known to the Masonic law."

Our Proceedings for 1856 are noticed at some length, and the address of our Grand Master is pronounced "more than ordinarily interesting." "The Communication lasted five days," the committee add, having previously noticed that there were eight chartered ▭ in the jurisdiction. No objection is made to the length of our session, and none to our work, except that the committee think that in our Constitution, modeled principally from that of New York, "alterations which have been introduced are not improvements."

Brother N. Greene Curtis was elected Grand Master, and Brother Alex. G. Abell was re-elected Grand Secretary.

DELAWARE.

Grand Annual Communication held at Wilmington, June 27, 1856; number of ▭, 15; members, 248.

The Grand Master's address is an earnest reminder of the objects and nature of Freemasonry. "Freemasonry," says he, "is either right or she is wrong—she is either good for us or she is an evil. There is no half-way quality about her. * * * She either elevates our moral perceptions to the standard of virtue by bringing into active service the better feelings of our nature, or she proves our unfitness for those social moral duties which attach to us as beings of a superior intelligence." He recommends that a portion of the funds of a ▭ be used for providing a sure means of disseminating pure Masonic light among the brethren by the purchase of a Masonic library. The Proceedings of the Grand ▭ are brief, and the session seems to have lasted but one day. There is no report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Brother A. P. Robinson, G.·. M.·., and Brother Daniel R. Wolfe, G.·. S.·., were re-elected.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Grand Annual Communication, December 27, 1856. The volume before us contains the Proceedings of the semi-Annual Communication in May, 1856; a Special Communication on the 24th of June, 1856, and of the Annual Communication. Also, of a Special Communication, on the 20th of February, 1856, for the purpose of attending the funeral of Brother Robert Keyworth, a Past Grand Master. At the semi-Annual Communication, business of a local character was transacted, and the Grand □ of Canada was recognized. St. John's Day was celebrated by a procession, an oration and a banquet. At the Annual Communication, a committee, of which Brother B. B. French was chairman, made a lengthy report upon the condition of matters in Canada, having since the Special Communication received further information.

This adds one more to the many elaborate and very able papers upon that subject—a subject, by the way, of no little importance, and to which we shall have occasion to refer hereafter.

A resolution was offered and passed, re-affirming the previous action of the Grand □ in recognizing the Grand □ of Canada.

Grand Master Frailey in his address, speaking of the many applications to him "for dispensations to make Masons, under the plea of their being 'cases of emergency,'" says:

"A case has occurred where a member of Congress was desirous of being invested with the three Degrees, preparatory to his receiving the Arch Degree and Order of the Temple, and just before the adjournment of Congress, when he would be leaving here for his home, where a □ existed and had been within his reach for a long series of years. This was regarded by me as a case not requiring the least consideration, for however 'emergent' it might have been to the body who would have derived the wages of the work, it presented no features on the part of the applicant, who should not only have been made at home, and thus contributed to the funds of that organized body to which he would subsequently attach himself, but there was an additional reason in his now doing so, because of his having passed long years of his mature life within the shadow of the temple, without seeing its beauty, until the wish entered his mind of being carried with railroad speed along a track traveled by others with slowness and deliberation, and under the guidance of knowledge acquired at successive stages of the journey."

He urges upon Masters the advantages of having dues promptly collected. "Small sums," says he, "are easily collected if proper and prompt means are adopted. Accumulations are not easily met, and when they become large are rendered by that fact alone difficult of collection, become salient points for attacks on the harmony of the □ and the parent of many evils."

When it is remembered that not many months after the delivery

of this address, the lips that uttered it were sealed to eternal silence by that "last enemy to be destroyed," and Grand Master Frailey passed from a symbolic □ on earth, to the Supreme Grand □ of Heaven, the following beautiful passage will seem eloquent with the pathos of a spirit fluttering between this and that better land, where the inhabitant never plains out the sad, sad words, "I am sick."

"The fall of the leaf in the season now closing, and the near advent of that succeeding period of the year when the earth, having thrown off her gay attire, clothes herself in her garments of white, when the babbling brooks are hushed into silence, and nature, weary of her gala efforts, alternately indulges in a staid and grim repose, or revels in the workings of the cloud and storm, scattering around, the victims of her sterner play, strikingly bring to the mind of every one at all advanced in years, the considerations that one by one the things which gave pleasure have lost their zest, the leaves of promise fading and withering in contact with the stern realities of existence—that the great river of life is shoaling fast from the failure of its springs or the locking up of its many tributaries, whose banks denuded of their summer fringe are brightened only by an occasional 'icy gem' formed of a stray sprinkle from these 'frozen urns;' that the *autumn* of his brief season has been reached, and day by day he is admonished by the impress of Time's hoary fingers, of the yet nearer approach of that *winter* of death, when all life's streamlets will be hushed by his icy breath, and all this wonderful work, called man, be but food for the silent worm. When to the usual effects of time, there are superadded those of disease and suffering, it is due from such an one to himself and family, to abstain from all care, anxiety or labor, not essential to the protection of the latter, in order to protract to the latest period, his exertion in their behalf, and put off the day of sorrow and mourning for their guardian protector and friend."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in an interesting review of the Proceedings of various Grand □, "venture the suggestion" that permitting a □ to have but one ballot for the three Degrees, "is not in strict conformity to Ancient Craft Masonry." The committee think the Grand □ of California transcended its legitimate power in resolving "That hereafter, in issuing Dispensations to open new □, the privilege of receiving members by affiliation, shall be granted." The committee say:

"The granting of each a Dispensation is simply and neither more nor less than the exercise, in that particular form, of the power which the Grand Master possesses of making Masons at sight, and the Dispensations, or Grand Master's warrant is the specific and limited authority to certain brethren to assemble and in due form to 'enter, pass and raise.' This does not constitute a □, nor has the Grand Master power to constitute or create a □. * * * They have no Constitution, nor can they make one, nor can they elect officers, exercise Masonic discipline, or do any act or thing other than that they are expressly authorized by the Grand Master to do, viz.: to make Entered Apprentices—pass and raise them. They are merely agents of the Grand Master to do that and only that to which he of his inherent right might or could do—persons to whom he has for a time delegated his power of making Masons at sight. A Grand Master has power to make a Mason at sight, but he has no power to make that Mason a member of a particular or any □, and as he has no power to make a Mason a member of a □, so he has no power to create a □ itself. He cannot delegate a power he does not possess, nor can his Grand □ enlarge a power in his hands which it has not originally conferred,

but which is derived by him from authority superior to its own, viz.: the Ancient Constitutions of Masonry."

Brother Geo. C. Whitney was elected Grand Master and Brother G. A. Schwarzman, Grand Secretary.

GEORGIA.

Grand Annual Communication held at Macon, October 28, 1856, Number of ▱, 205; members, 11,204; initiations, 1343.

This Grand ▭ on assembling, was first called upon to notice the death of its Grand Master, Wm. C. Dawson, who, after having served in that capacity for thirteen years, had surrendered his gavel at the call of our Great Chief Architect. A resolution was also passed, during the session, appropriating a suitable sum for the erection of a monument to his memory. $1200 was appropriated. "The spontaneous and universal expression of sincere grief at his loss," says Deputy Grand Master Rockwell, "which has come up from the Subordinate ▱, attests how greatly he was beloved, and how widely his loss has been mourned." A ▭ having suspended one of its members, afterwards re-considered its action and expelled him. Brother Rockwell "decided the subsequent action of the ▭ altogether null." He also "had to instruct Lumber City ▭, under Dispensation, as to the extent of its powers, by the reiteration of the often repeated decisions in this jurisdiction, that such ▱ cannot affiliate members: and was obliged to inform a Master of a ▭ who refused Masonic burial to a deceased member of that ▭ merely because he was a Universalist, "that it was the duty of a Master of a ▭, on request, to attend the remains of a departed brother to the grave, and perform the ceremonies of the Order, no matter what his religious belief in life might have been," provided the brother was in good standing at the time of his death. He commends the punctuality of a Master in opening the ▭ precisely at the hour of meeting, to which commendation we heartily subscribe.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence give their ideas of the "status" of an Entered Apprentice, proving from history that he is a Mason, claiming that he is entitled to membership in a ▭ and to the advantages which thereto appertain, and that Masonic law is null which prohibits him from joining in a public procession. Funeral processions are stated as an exception, none but Master Masons being, according to Preston, entitled to Masonic burial. The committee also dissent from the doctrine advocated in and even by some Grand ▱, that a belief in the Divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures must be avowed by a candidate for our mysteries. Noticing the position of the California Foreign Committee upon the rights and powers of ▱ U.·. D.·., they say:

"In the reasoning of the committee in favor of their being regarded ▭ in the full meaning of the word, we fully concur: and yet we are satisfied of the position taken by Brother Rockwell and held with us, viz.: That the powers of a ▭ U.·. D.·. must depend, after all, on the terms of the Dispensation itself."

Brother Wm. S. Rockwell was elected Grand Master and Brother Simri Rose re-elected Grand Secretary.

INDIANA.

Grand Annual Communication at Indianapolis, May 25, 1857. Number of ▭, 215; members, 7903; Initiations, 1251; Dispensations, 14.

Grand Master Downey in his address alludes to one matter which has heretofore caused some trouble in this jurisdiction—the unwillingness of brethren at all times to cheerfully acquiesce in the *result* of a ballot for a candidate. "A ▭," says he, "should be entirely harmonious, but this could not be the case if persons who are objectionable to a minority could yet be forced into the ▭ by the majority. Some who do not understand the necessity of this regulation, and who do not stop to consider the consequences which must follow a disregard of it, are frequently complaining of or attempting to prevent the operation of it. An applicant in whom they have an unusual interest, and who in their opinion, is as good as any one who is already in the ▭, is rejected; one cruel dissenting vote is interposed. Now instead of acquiescing in the operation of the rule, and deferring somewhat to the views of others who may possibly know as much as themselves, they talk and agitate until the whole ▭ becomes excited and takes sides in regard to it. Sometimes advantage is taken of the absence of the objector, or a called meeting is got up of which they are careful that he gets no notice, and the objectionable applicant is thus smuggled into the ▭. * * Much confusion grows out of the disregard of the right of a member to cast a dissenting vote." A little reflection on the part of brethren, will, we think, convince them not only of the propriety, but the necessity of submitting, without discussion, to the verdict which the ballot-box may give, even though satisfied in their own minds that such verdict is wrong.

The Grand Master cautions the Grand ▭ against attempting too much legislation, but says "when it is necessary to legislate, it should be promptly and fearlessly done." He recommends legislation upon one subject only, and that is "the enactment of a rule by which the Grand Master and the Masters of Subordinate ▭ shall be made amenable to the jurisdiction and discipline of the Subordinate ▭ to which they belong, for unmasonic conduct not growing out of their official acts." "It seems to be contended on all hands,"

he remarks, "that the Grand Master, and the Masters of Subordinate ▭ cannot be tried by the Subordinate ▭ to which they belong, for anything, and yet I know of no satisfactory authority for the assertion, and certainly it is without reason." A committee to whom this part of the address was referred, reported the following as "New Regulations:"

First. It shall be competent for the Subordinate ▭ of which the Grand Master is a member, to try and expel or suspend him for any unmasonic conduct not growing out of his official duties; and when expelled or suspended, his office of Grand Master shall be vacated, and the officer next in rank shall fill the office.

Second. Subordinate ▭ shall have power to try and expel or suspend their Master for any unmasonic conduct not growing out of the discharge of his official duties. When the Master of a ▭ is under trial, the officer next in rank, or some Past Master to be designated by him, shall preside. When the Master of a ▭ is expelled or suspended, the officer next in rank shall succeed to the station.

"*Third.* The Grand Master and Masters of Subordinate ▭ are answerable only to the Grand ▭ for acts growing out of official duties."

The report was seconded by the Grand ▭, and laid over under the By-Laws until the next Annual Communication.

Brother Mackey, in his invaluable Lexicon of Freemasonry, under the title "Master of a ▭," says: "He is amenable for his conduct to the Grand ▭ alone, and to that body must every complaint against him be made. For no misdemeanor, however great, can he be tried by his ▭: for as no one has a right to preside there in his presence except himself, it would be absurd to suppose that he could sit as the judge in his own case. This is the decision that has been made on the subject by every Grand ▭ in the United States which has entertained the question, and it may now be considered a settled law of Masonry."

The editor of the Masonic Magazine, volume 8, page 287, (see Mystic Circle, page 263,) says: "It has been generally decided that the ▭ has no power to try its Master, but that he must be impeached before the Grand ▭, and tried by that tribunal."

In Anderson's Ancient Constitution, the first General Regulation is as follows:

"I. The Grand Master, or his deputy, hath authority and right not only to be present in any true ▭, but also to preside, wherever he is, with the Master of the ▭ on his left hand, and to order his Grand Wardens to attend him."

We can imagine such a thing as a Master or Grand Master, who has rendered himself obnoxious to trial for unmasonic conduct, declining to allow a Subordinate ▭ to sit in judgment upon him; and, in such extremity, who can wrest the gavel from his hands? or prevent the Master's walking off with the charter, of which he is custodian? It strikes us that the Grand ▭ is the more proper place

for arraigning one to whom so much is entrusted. Our ancient brethren were in no hurry to anticipate and provide for such a sad state of affairs, as appears from the 19th General Regulation, which reads thus:

"XIX. If a Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience and subjection of the ▭, he shall be treated in a way and manner to be agreed upon in a new regulation: because, hitherto, the Ancient Fraternity have had no occasion for it, their former Grand Masters having all behaved themselves worthy of that honorable office."

The Grand ▭ resolved to "hereafter distribute its unappropriated revenue, as it may accrue, among the Subordinate ▭, to be appropriated by them respectively for the sole purposes of education, in such just and equitable ratio as the Grand ▭ shall determine."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence gives brief notices of the Grand ▭ whose Proceedings have been received. Under the general heading of "Territories," is the following:

"We have the printed Proceedings of the Grand Territorial ▭ of Minnesota, Oregon and Kansas, for the year 1856—all showing a thrifty condition of the Craft therein, and more especially that of Minnesota. Your committee indulge the hope and belief that a few years more will give these sister jurisdictions such a strength as will enable them to impart strength to the Order."

The committee, in their "Concluding Remarks," indulge in a short lecture upon the duties, as contrasted with the usurpations, of a Committee on Foreign Correspondence—complaining of transgression, of usurpation, of rushing along, of framing edicts, of "spreading themselves," and the like contumacious acts. "We think," say they, "that as a committee, we are the creatures of the creation of this Grand ▭, and that our report should of right be submitted for such amendment, revision or concurrence, as it may deserve and require in the opinion of this Grand Body, and, therefore, we shall offer nothing in the shape of *edicts* or resolves, except such as might be necessary to the disposition of our report."

Now, we—not the Grand ▭ of Minnesota, but simply the undersigned committee—*think*, without intending to ordain or decree, but merely by virtue of that right of thinking which we think thinking mortals possess as one of the "inalienables,"—we *think*, we say, that the mistake and the mischief are condensed and made apparent in the following proceeding on the part of the Grand ▭ of Indiana, to wit:

"On motion of Brother Melburn, the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence was taken from the table, and then, on motion of Bro. B. Newland, it was *adopted*."

We have labored thus far upon this report, under the supposition that our brethren in this jurisdiction were interested in knowing the

condition, the doings, and the ideas of the Craft generally; that a good deal of such information was to be found in the published Proceedings of the various Grand ; that while those Proceedings could be sent to the several Grand , they could not be furnished to individual brethren to any great extent beyond the jurisdiction they represented; that a single copy of the Proceedings of another Grand in the possession of this Grand , would perish in a most untimely manner, were it sent to travel "on the Circuit," to the various Subordinate and the brethren composing them; and that, *therefore*, a committee was appointed to examine the Proceedings of the several Grand in communication with us, and cull out what might be deemed valuable, interesting or noticeable, to present in condensed form, with our own Proceedings, to the Craft throughout the Territory. If, in quoting an edict, a decision, or an opinion, we hazard an idea of our own, we give it *as* our own, and not as that of the Grand . If our selections are bad, or our report is encumbered with any matter, original or quoted, which this Grand thinks it "won't pay" to put in print—then amendment, revision or suppression would be proper. If anything is mentioned upon which the Grand desires to take definite action—their concurrence or dissent can be expressed in the usual manner, by resolution or edict. It is true that committees of this kind have been in the habit of doing what they perhaps could not do in any other manner —getting their own notions and ideas printed at length, at the expense of the Grand . It is true that those opinions do not always appear to be worth printing. That, however, is all the look-out of the body which foots the bill—providing, always, the language used is such as becomes a Mason. If the *adoption* of a report is an assent to all that it contains, we should be very sorry to see this one adopted, for we quote many things merely for information and without remark, to which, as individuals, we most decidedly dissent. If this paper is deemed worth publishing with the Proceedings, our ambition is satisfied so far as action is concerned.

In conclusion, we have only to express the hope that a large majority of Committees on Foreign Correspondence will give us "more of the same sort." It does not require a martyr's amount of brotherly charity to bear an occasional infliction from a mere tyro, or a dyspeptic; so long as Brothers King, Abell, Mellen, Mackey, Morris, Parvin, Dove, Pearl, and others of their stamp, remain in the same harness, Masonic literature is enriched, and Masonic learning increased by their labors, and we look for their yearly reports as for a "feast of fat things." Only let all Grand , in their selection of a committee, be careful to appoint brethren of ability and learn-

ing, and more especially such as are well versed in Masonic law and lore—by which advice we deliberately "cut off our own nose," and in effect decline a reappointment.

Brother Sol. D. Bayless was elected Grand Master, and Brother Francis King was re-elected Grand Secretary.

ILLINOIS.

Grand Annual Communication at Springfield, October 6, 1857. Number of ▭, 254, members, 8456, initiations, 1772, dispensations, 26.

The first thing that we particularly noticed in these Proceedings was the fact that "R.·. W.·. Bro. Shirley respectfully appealed from the decision of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master of the Grand ▭," upon which the D.·. G.·. M.·. took the chair. A discussion followed in which the Grand Master took a part, and the question was put. "Shall the decision of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master stand as the judgment of the Grand ▭?" and was decided in the affirmative by a very large majority. R.·. W.·. Bro. Shirley then gave a notice that he would enter a protest to said decision. Accordingly, on the next day, he with several others, presented a protest, which was ruled out by the G.·. M.·.

"And if 'appeals' are mentioned," say the Mississippi committee for the year 1848, "it is not to be presumed that the Grand ▭ claims the right to appeals, but that it is allowed by courtesy of the Grand Master, and generally at his own suggestion, from diffidence in his own want of deference to the opinion of the Grand ▭." Does the Illinois Grand ▭ claim the right of appeal from a decision of the Grand Master ruling a motion out of order?

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is excellently arranged. Under the heading "Duties of Masters," the remarks of the Grand Master of Arkansas upon the subject are quoted, after which the qualifications of a Master are thus enumerated:

"1. He should be a just man.

"2. He should be a pattern of good morals.

"3. He should be a benevolent and prudent man.

"4. He should be a firm and decided man.

"5. He should have the ability and will to enforce obedience.

"6. He should have courage to enforce discipline.

"7. He should be well versed in laws and usages.

"8. He should know the ritual.

"9. He should be apt and willing to teach.

"10. He should have the character and ability to command respect in the chair."

"It may be said," continue the committee, "that few are so qualified. That is true. Then, let him be Master who comes nearest to it." Amen.

The committee say: "The Masonic Institution is not a Christian one; neither is it a Jewish one. Hiram, King of Tyre, was not a Jew; neither did he practice Jewish rites. He recognized the government of a Supreme Being, and was as devout and conscientious as King Solomon. If the candidate be a man of good report; if he be *well* recommended, and of lawful age; if he believes in God, the Supreme Governor of Heaven and earth; and if he puts his trust in that God—your committee conceive that he has answered all that the Constitutions require. More than this, with all due respect to those who differ, seems, to your committee, like sectarianism. Masons should be very guarded on this point. If an innovation of this character is tolerated, it may be difficult to stop short of fanaticism."

In noticing our Grand ▭ Proceedings, the committee say: "This is a very thrifty ▭."

Resolutions were passed by the Grand ▭, welcoming the Grand ▭ of Kansas and of Canada; that advancement in the Degrees may be stayed at any time by the ▭ or the Master; against "side Degrees" as pernicious, and prohibiting the conferring of them; and "that this Grand ▭ will sustain the action of any Subordinate ▭ under its jurisdiction in punishing by reprimand, suspension or expulsion any member who shall be found guilty of the inordinate use of intoxicating drinks, great profanity, gambling, quarrelling with, or abusing a brother Mason."

Among the resolutions "adopted at sundry times, and as revised, and now in force, given in an appendix, are the following:

"XXXVIII. 1. *Resolved*, That a summons issued by a Subordinate ▭, or the W.·. M.·. thereof, may be either written or oral.

"2. That any summons, issued as aforesaid, need not contain any other matter except the requisition to attend the ▭ issuing the same, or the Master thereof when required.

"3. That every Master Mason on being so summoned or notified, is bound to attend the meeting of the ▭ so requiring him, whether the same be done for the purpose of getting his testimony on matters before the ▭, or to answer charges against himself.

"4. That every Master Mason, whether he be a member of a ▭ or not, is bound to obey any summons issued by any ▭ under whose jurisdiction he may reside, without question as to the object thereof.

"5. That any member of a Subordinate ▭ is subject to the discipline thereof, excepting only the W.·. M.·.

"LI. *Resolved*, That it is inconsistent with ancient usages, for the By-Laws of a Subordinate ▭ to contain a provision authorizing or permitting a dispensing with any portion of the same under any circumstances.

"LII. *Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand ▭, and they would therefore instruct all Masters of Subordinate ▭, or those who are called upon to confer the three Degrees of symbolic Masonry, that they are required to give the Degrees in full, together with the lectures; and that no

work, according to the ancient charges, should be undertaken by any □, that they can not in due time perfect."

Bro. Harrison Dills was elected Grand Master, and Bro. Harman G. Reynolds was re-elected Grand Secretary.

IOWA.

Grand Communication held at Iowa City, June 2, 1857. Number of □, 111, members, 3178, initiations, 854, dispensations, 17.

Says the Grand Master:

"The principal duty devolving upon me, in my official capacity during the past year, has been to carry out the resolution of the Grand □ relative to a uniformity of Masonic work in this State. * * * This plan of establishing a uniform system of work has been fairly tried in this jurisdiction, and the labor and sacrifice bestowed upon it, have, in my opinion, only served to demonstrate its impracticability."

He gave notice that he should pay especial attention to the By-Law which "provides that 'the Grand Master shall cause the work and lectures of the first three Degrees of Masonry to be exhibited before the Grand □ at each Grand Annual Communication.'" The evenings were devoted to that business.

The Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom were referred certain questions, say:

"That they believe that every man who does not make himself known as a Mason should be regarded as a profane, and that any one whose character is good, and who is worthy of credence, (and no other can be a Worthy Mason,) *must* be believed. * * * That no brother can be divested of any □ privileges by any general law of a Subordinate □, but that he must be suspended, if done at all, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the □ present."

The report was adopted.

The committee also reported, which was adopted:

"That when a brother asks a dimit and the □ grants it, it is to be reasonably supposed that they both have agreed peacefully to divorce from each other. The mere written form of the dimit is not the *action* of the □, but the *memorandum* of that action, and a proof of his good standing, and the fact of the □ failing to furnish it to the dimitted, does not render void their action in granting it; consequently, the failing of the dimitted to accept this evidence of his dismission does not keep him in the □. He is dimitted as soon as he asks for a dimit, and the □ grants it. If the □ does not furnish him his evidence, he has redress through the Grand Master of the Grand □; if he refuses to take his evidence, it is his own loss."

We concur in the above, except that it is not necessary for the □ to *grant* a dimit. If a brother wishes to dimit, he has only to give notice to the □ that he *does* dimit, and if his name stands clear from dues on the books, and his character as a Mason is not impeached by the brethren, the deed is accomplished, and nothing more is required than making a record of the fact.

The Committee on the Work of □, report of one □, that "At a Communication, May 5, 1857, Mr. Dexter was introduced and received the first Degree of Masonry—whether in due ancient form,

does not appear from the record." Secretaries of ▭ will do well to note this, and make some investigation as to "what is proper to be written." The Grand ▭ resolved to hold their next Grand Annual Communication at Fort des Moines. Also, "That the Grand ▭ of Iowa forbids ▭ U.·. D.·. to elect Master Masons to membership, or to dimit any of the members to whom the dispensation may have been granted."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Bro. Parvin. It is a model of a report. The brother's kindly nature is displayed all through it, and, in contrast with a few other reports, it "sweetens a sour stomach." Our Proceedings for 1856 are noticed, and, by the way, Bro. Parvin is made to say—by the printer probably—that our Grand Master Sherburne "took strong ground in favor of the proposed Masonic Confederation." For "in favor of," please read "*against*," with an emphasis.

The committee recommend "a uniform code of Laws for Subordinates; it will save much time and labor, at every session, on the part of committees examining the By-Laws of ▭ U.·. D.·., and chartered ▭, and moreover tend to secure more correct work and better government in our ▭."

J. F. Sandford was re-elected Grand Master and T. S. Parvin re-elected Grand Secretary.

KENTUCKY.

Grand Annual Communications held at Lexington, October 13, 1856 and October 12, 1857. Number of ▭, —; members, 9979; initiations, 1281; Dispensations, 10.

M.·. W.·. Grand Master Wise commences his address by contrasting the mutability of "thrones, principalities and powers," with the unchangeableness of our Ancient Institution. He says:

"Everywhere we behold how finite and perishable is the work of man, and how infinite and eternal is the wisdom of God. In the midst of this wreck of matter and whirlpool of change, there is one object which seems at least to partake of something like exemption from the prevailing infirmity. The Mason casts his eye along the vista of time, and from the crowning heights of observation surveys, in the dim glimpses of the past, the types, symbols, landmarks and precepts of his Order, fixed and immovable, remaining constant as the polar star. Like some venerable patriarch of the Masonic era, our Order stands an embodied intelligence, silvered o'er with years and embellished with honors. It moves along with the current of progress, a serene and beneficent object. To the magnanimity and wisdom of Nestor, it combines the subtlety and caution of Ulysses, joined to the indomitable fortitude and undaunted valor of Achilles. It is indeed an amazing object of curiosity and wonder, veneration and love. If it be a farce, why is it enduring? Why is it that it now is what it was in the days of our Ancient Grand Master Solomon? and that the learned and good, the scientific and enterprising of every age, cherish and uphold it?

The Deputy Grand Master proposed the following as an amendment to the Constitution:

"WHEREAS, There is a marked difference of opinion and usage among the Subordinate ▭ of Kentucky relative to casting the ballot for Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts; and

"WHEREAS, The difference of usage has long existed in this State and has become an established fact in the history of the Subordinate ▭: therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the Grand ▭ does not dictate to its Subordinates whether this matter of local usage shall be continued or changed, but that each ▭ is at liberty to spread the ballot for initiation in the first Degree, or in the third, in its own discretion; likewise to spread the ballot for Fellow Crafts in the second Degree, or in the third, at its own discretion."

A resolution was adopted "that hereafter no member of the Grand ▭ shall speak more than five minutes upon any subject before it." That will do for a Grand ▭ whose roll of Subordinates numbers up to three hundred and fifty, but would be an unnecessary curb upon the "powerful speakers," of this small body.

Resolutions were adopted prohibiting any Mason from traveling as a lecturer, unless authorized and appointed by the Grand ▭, so as to receive a compensation therefor; that no Subordinate ▭ shall ever be called on by the Grand ▭ to contribute towards the payment of any lecturer whose services are not asked for by said ▭; and that no Subordinate shall ever, under any circumstances, pay an invited lecturer more for his services in lecturing, installing officers, or performing any other Masonic duty than the actual expenses incurred by said lecturer.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence has the signature of Rob. Morris to it—a name that needs only to be seen to give currency and credit to anything—in the Masonic line at least—that may be written over it. The committee quote the Alabama case of withdrawing from the Order in obedience to church discipline, and after commending the action of the Grand Master in the premises, pithily add:

"Masonry is not like a man's glove, that can be drawn on or pulled off at pleasure, or to suit the convenience of the wearer, and when worn out can be cast away as a useless thing; but its obligations exist during life, and the only absolution from them is when the Grand Master of the Universe calls him from time to eternity."

At the risk of being requested to pay the bill if we wish to print a volume, the following upon a subject before alluded to, must have place:

"Your committee cannot sanction this great departure from the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry. There has been, we think, for some time past, a gradual effort, or rather an inclination, to use a milder term, with some brothers, to sectionalize, or rather *christianize* Masonry. Now, in our opinion, the universality of Masonry has been one of the great causes of its vitality, ushering it in from the dim regions of remote antiquity to the present time; it has been not only its herald, but its protector, and will cause its existence to continue through the unknown future. Like the great Banian tree in India, our Institution, through its universality, has extended its branches on all sides, until each, throwing down its roots into the genial soil, has at length become a gigantic offshoot, spreading out

wider and wider, until its foliage has extended over nearly the whole earth, and nations are reposing under its grateful shade. The effect of the introduction of this new test and others of like character, will be, we fear, to shiver the Craft into a thousand fragments, never to be reunited; strife, confusion and disunion, will prevail in the ⊏⊐, and the days of the prosperity of the Order will be numbered. The true doctrine on this subject has been well laid down by our illustrious brother, Prince Murat, Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France, in his opening address at the late Universal Masonic Congress, as follows: 'All men who believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, the Great Architect of the Universe; who believe in the immortality of the soul, and consequently in an eternal well-being; every man who feels the love of his fellow-man vibrate in him, is acceptable among us.'"

We trust this Grand Body of Minnesota will have the wisdom to avoid that "new light," which it may well be feared will yet *shoal* some sister Grand ⊏⊐. It is almost, if not quite, a corollary that ⊏⊐—Masonry—*must* become sectarian whenever a declaration of belief in the Bible or the Christian religion is made a part of our ritual. *We*, as believers in Christianity, and with the Holy Scriptures upon our altar, as "the book of the law of Masonry," may well refuse to receive a candidate who disbelieves it on the ground that the harmony of the ▭ would be disturbed by his admission; but after election, if "his faith is well founded," according to our ancient rules, no further religious test can be required. We may recommend the Bible as the work of inspiration, and "the rule and guide of *our* faith," but we cannot require him to believe it.

The Proceedings of this Grand ▭ for 1857, are noticed, and our report is not only spoken of as "a well-written document," but a quotation is made from it. This, from such a source, is peculiarly encouraging; for if our work has not betrayed us, the world shall never know how ignorant we were when the making of that report was entrusted to us, nor how scared we were when the printer got our manuscript.

The returns of ⊏⊐ and statistical tables in the Proceedings before us, are very perfect and very elaborate. Were all Grand Secretaries as particular in compiling and indexing, what a knowledge of the condition of the Order throughout the world would be within each brother's reach.

Brother Philip Swigert was elected Grand Master, and Brother J. M. S. McCorcle was re-elected Grand Secretary.

KANSAS.

Grand Communication at Leavenworth, July 14, 1856; Grand Annual Communication, October 20th, 1856. Four ⊏⊐ represented; six ⊏⊐ chartered.

The Proceedings before us contain the address of Grand Master Rees, the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and the necessary local legislation.

The Foreign Committee have the Proceedings of North Carolina, Ohio and Indiana, only, to make a beginning upon. Their labors will doubtless be vastly increased by the time another report is made, as the hand of welcome has been readily extended to the Grand ▭ of Kansas, by nearly all the Grand Bodies in the Union.

Two interesting facts are stated by the committee, as having come to their knowledge. The brother writing the report, Brother Leander Kerr, Grand Chaplain, says:

"The first given to me at my residence by a worthy brother Mason and a worthy minister of the Methodist Church, who had been many years a missionary among the Chippewa Indians and other tribes in the British Possessions. He told me that among the Chippewas he found many Masons and was himself in their ▭; that all their signs, grips and passwords, were the same as ours; and that they were consistent and exemplary as men and christians in their conduct, and that they could not tell him when and by whom Masonry was introduced among them; that it was beyond the memory of their fathers.

The second fact is from the pen of a British officer, who served with distinction in the Crimea, and is himself a Mason. Being much among the Turks, and in Constantinople, he found many Masons among these people, and was in some of their ▭; that they worked as we do, and that with some immaterial difference, their signs, grips and passwords are the same as ours. But he could not find among them any higher than the Royal Arch."

Brother R. R. Rees was re-elected Grand Master, and Brother Chas. Mundee was elected Grand Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

Grand Annual Communication at New Orleans, February 9, 1857. Number of ▭, 106; Members, 3,629; Initiations, 646; Dispensations, 8; one being for a ▭ in Nicaragua, entrusted to brethren emigrating there from Louisiana.

Grand Master Perkins reports an aggravated case of rebellion by some of the members of a ▭ in New Orleans. After repeated acts of insubordination, they took forcible possession of the charter, refusing to give it up to the Master, or even to the Grand Master; held an election of officers, with an order suspending work lying before them, and finally withdrew from the jurisdiction of the Grand ▭, but continued to meet clandestinely. The Grand ▭ ordered a trial of the seceding members, and authorized the issuing of a duplicate charter to those members who had maintained their allegiance.

Brother J. Q. A. Fellows submitted a new Constitution for the Grand ▭, which was laid over under the present Constitution. It is very brief, occupying only five pages of the printed Proceedings.

In the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, the Proceedings of twenty-two Grand ▭ are briefly noticed. Upon one subject we shall have occasion to quote hereafter.

Brother Wm. M. Perkins, G.·. M.·., and Brother S. G. Risk, G.· Secretary, were re-elected.

MAINE.

Grand Annual Communication held at Portland, May 5, 1857. Number of ⧉, 80; Members, 3,288; Initiations, 497; Dispensations, 4.

The address of Grand Master True, is a business document, closing in the following words:

"Still, let us never forget that no minority was ever yet entirely wrong, and that every brother has a right to be heard calmly and dispassionately; that it is far nobler for us to forego our wishes at the request of those weaker than ourselves, than to enjoy them in sight of the wounded hearts of our brothers. Remember, in all your acts, the lessons you have so frequently heard inculcated in our ⧉: so may the memory of this Convocation dwell in our minds as a season of happiness, consequent upon our well-spent time."

M.·. W.·. Brother True declined a re-election.

In the Proceedings of this Grand Body, we notice a resolution directing the appointment, at each Communication, of an Assistant Grand Tyler, to "tyle" the clothing room, and be responsible for the garments entrusted to his care by the brethren.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the right (so called) to visit Masonically is not an absolute right, but is a favor which every lawful Mason in good standing is entitled to ask, and which the Master may concede or refuse, at his discretion; and that no Master of a ▭ under this jurisdiction shall admit a visitor, when positive objection to such admission is made by a regular member or by a ▭."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, is, as usual, a string of gems of Brother Pearl's setting. In his notice of our Proceedings for 1856, he compliments our present and past Grand Masters, quoting from the latter's address at some length. The report of the special committee of this Grand ▭ to whom was referred that portion of Grand Master Sherburne's address relative to a confederation of Grand ⧉, is quoted, and Brother Pearl says:

"These resolutions, in our judgment, are worthy of earnest attention. If the National Confederation fails, as we have ever supposed it most probably would, then, it seems to us, the time has come to make one more decided effort for a General Grand ▭. Why shall it not be formed by delegates that may meet at the time and place of the next triennial session of the General Grand Chapter in 1859? What say the Grand ⧉ of the country to this proposition?"

A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Foreign Correspondence to address a circular to the Grand ⧉ of the country, urging the formation of a General Grand ▭, to meet as suggested above.

Brother Robert P. Dunlap was elected Grand Master, and Brother

Ira Berry was re-elected Grand Secretary. Eight Grand Chaplains were appointed. Let us pray—that grace may the more abound among them.

MARYLAND.

Semi-Annual Communication held at Baltimore, May 11, 1857; number of ▭, 104, members, 1,523.

The Proceedings before us also contain the minutes of the special Communications of February 28, and March 10, called for the purpose of paying the tribute of respect so justly due, to the remains of Brother E. K. Kane.

At the semi-Annual Communication, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That this Grand ▭ suggest octavo as the size for the printed Journal of Proceedings; and that the address of the Grand Master, and the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, be printed together in an appendix, so that they may be separated from the rest of the journal, and be bound together, thus forming an annual history reflecting the condition and opinions of the Order."

Says the Grand Master: "Far better is it to stand still, or to decrease in numbers, than to swell our ranks with men of vicious or even doubtful character. Adherents to the various forms of Christianity can pass through the several Degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry without encountering any requirement which will violate their principles or offend their predilections. But, at every step, we meet truths high and elevated, instructions holy and impressive, the enunciation of which must appear nothing better than solemn mockery to the vicious and profane."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence "deviate from the usual course on this occasion," and instead of noticing each Grand Body, confine their labors to a discussion of "several subjects which they think of great importance to the Fraternity." One of these subjects is upon the question of jurisdiction; another, the condition of non-affiliated Masons. They say, upon the latter point:

It is argued that the duties and obligations of Masonry are reciprocal, and therefore all should contribute equally towards the funds of a ▭. As to the first part of the proposition, it is granted; as to the second part, it is denied. There is no precept more explicitly taught than that all stand upon the same level and on the most perfect equality. * * * * And one of the brightest jewels of this liberty and equality is, the right of each one to judge for himself as to what is his duty. Then, suppose a case: A worthy and zealous brother, who has been educated under the teetotal precepts of the Grand ▭ of Alabama, removes into the jurisdiction of Virginia, and, in compliance with her requirements, affiliates with a Subordinate, under whose jurisdiction he sojourns. He there finds that refreshments are ordered, and paid for out of the funds of the ▭. He finds that a dinner or supper is ordered on some public occasion, and that the spirituous are not omitted in the programme. This is an offence to his conscience. After mature reflection, it is his deliberate judgment that his funds should not be thus expended, and that it is his duty to withdraw

from the □ and contribute the means he has to the relief of the needy and distressed? Who shall gainsay his judgment, or censure his determination? He may, in after years, return to the bosom of his former love, and wish to renew his □ connection: yet, if the Grand □ of Virginia enforced the penalty of expulsion for non-affiliation, he cannot do so."

Brother J. A. McKenney is G.·. M.·., and Brother J. Robinson, G.·. S.·.

MISSISSIPPI.

Grand Annual Communication at Vicksburg, January 19, 1857. Number of □, 197; Members, 7,568; Initiations, 920; Dispensations, 5.

The following extracts are from Grand Master Hillyer's address:

"We come at the call of our Institution, not to investigate reforms or to strive after influence in State or in Politics, in Church or in Religion, though we may well be proud that if we are true to the teachings of the □-room, we must be better citizens and purer moralists. * * * Masonry, my brethren, is not Religion, though often, if not always its hand-maiden. It is no substitute for Religion. Its birth-place was on the earth; there is the scene of its labors and its triumphs. Its concern is for man: the moral and spiritual man, I mean, as well as the bodily man; but for man in this world. However typical may be its organization, its rites or its ceremonies, of Dispensations, of Sacrificial acts, or of Religious systems, still it has nought to do but to be true to its immemorial teachings. Its aim and its intention, apart from the scientific knowledge it imparts, is to make the travel along life's road a more pleasant, a more instructive, and a more beneficial journey. The square, the level and the plumb, are to be the Mason's guides, fitting him for more useful employment in the great □ of life."

The Grand Master recommends that the Grand Annual Communication be held at the close rather than at the beginning of the year, so that it may be composed of members who have had some experience as □ officers. "What," says he, "does the new Master, installed upon the 27th of December, know on the second or third Monday of January, of the condition of his own □, of the important questions submitted to the East during the preceding year, and of the workings of the Grand □, when compared with the Master who has just descended from his high position? * * Who knows more of the Masonic work and business of the year just brought to a close, than the Masters who have, during that year, given instruction to the laborers of the Craft, and set them to work during their hours of labor? Who can better decide upon complaints and appeals; redress grievances; legislate with regard to assessments and finances, and attend to Foreign Correspondence? Certainly not the new Master of a fortnight's creation, who has probably only filled the East but once since his elevation? * * * Unite to a regulation that the Masters and Wardens of the preceding Masonic year should be the representatives to the Grand □ at its January Communication, instead of the Masters and Wardens recently installed, or else that the Annual Communication should be holden the last

week in November, or first week in December, before the Masonic year terminates—unite, I say, to such a regulation, the further one, that all proxies must be at least of the grade and rank of those they represent—that is, that Masters, and of course ▭ can only be represented by Masters or Past Masters, while the proxies of Wardens may be Wardens, or Masters, or Past Masters, but must at least have been the former, and it appears to me we shall ensure to the Communications of this Grand ▭, still sounder learning, greater judgment, riper experience and truer devotion than she even now possesses, honorable as is the reputation in these respects which she has already acquired."

Your committee would be very willing to concur in anything promotive of the wisdom and efficiency of our Grand ▭. But the idea of its being composed of the retiring Masters and Wardens to the exclusion of the actual officers of the Subordinate ▭, strikes us as a novel one at least. The old Regulations say: "The Grand ▭ consists of, and is formed by the Masters and Wardens of all the particular ▭ on record, with the Grand Master as their head, the Deputy on his left hand, and the Grand Wardens in their places." —*Reg. XII.*

Brother Mackey says, it "consists of the Masters and Wardens of all the ▭ under its jurisdiction, and such Past Masters as may enroll themselves or be elected as members. Past Masters are not, however, members of the Grand ▭ by inherent right, but only by courtesy," &c.—*Lexicon of Freemasonry.*

Dr. Oliver says: "This governing body consists of a Grand Master, with a full staff of purple officers, the Grand Stewards for the year, and the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of every warranted ▭."—*Dictionary of Symbolical Masonry.*

We simply do not believe it would be wise, if it be in the power of any man or body of men, to so change the whole Grand ▭ superstructure, which has grown out of the extension of the privileges of Masonry "to men of various professions," as to exclude the Masters and Wardens of particular ▭ and entrust the despotic powers of a Grand ▭ entirely to Past Officers. To the Masters of ▭ are given peculiar and extensive prerogatives. Supreme in their own ▭, there is a propriety in allowing a convocation of them to rule in Grand ▭. Wardens, being their assistants or their representatives, are properly enough associated with them while occupying the West and South, but no longer.

In regard to no one's being a proxy, unless he has at some time and place occupied the station of the officer he represents, we think it a wise provision, though perhaps the regulation in our G.·. L.·.

Constitution, which requires that "a proxy must have arrived at the rank of Warden," is better adapted to our present wants, considering the limited number of Past Masters within this jurisdiction.

The suggestion that the Grand Annual Communication should be held just before the time for the general election of officers in Subordinate ⊟, is worthy of consideration. There is much force in the observations of the Grand Master upon the subject of composing a Grand ▭ of newly elected officers of Subordinates.

The Grand ▭ adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the loss of a foot, or hand, or the thumb and fingers of the right hand, or the total absence or deprivation of either of the senses of hearing, seeing or feeling, constitutes physical disability or disqualification; and no person laboring under either of the above specified disabilities, is eligible to be made a Mason."

There is a great degree of unanimity among the various Grand ⊟, upon this matter of physical qualifications, in favor of a strict observance of the ancient requirement, "that the Apprentice should be free-born and of limbs whole as a man ought to be."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is written by Brother Daniel, the Grand Secretary. He does not review the different G.·. L.·. Proceedings, but gives his views upon several matters which have been subjects of discussion and legislation, and especially devotes himself to vindicating the claims of the Bible to the position of "first and greatest light in our order." In the disposition of the report, it was

"*Resolved*, That the Grand ▭ have spread on its minutes the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, not with the intention of adopting the same, especially that part which discusses the Greater Light, which we prefer to remain as we received it."

The brethren of the Grand ▭ through their M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. presented R.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. S.·. Mellen, with a fine service of silver plate in testimonial of their appreciation of his services as Grand Secretary during a term of twenty-one years. The presentation was in open ▭ and was the occasion of happy speeches.

Grand Master Hillyer declined a re-election, and Brother Wm. R. Cannon was elected Grand Master. Bro. R. W. T. Daniel was re-elected Grand Secretery.

MISSOURI.

Grand Annual Communication held at Saint Louis, May 25, 1857. Number of ⊟, 159; Members 5810; Initiations, 761; Dispensations, 11.

They have a Masonic College in Missouri, and we are sorry to say it appears to have proved a grievous tax and a sad failure. The Grand Master despairs of success in trying to keep it up, and says:

"In my opinion the time has arrived when this Grand □ must take some decided course in relation to this Institution. * * * * I have felt an honest pride in its prospects of success; but the conviction is at last forced upon me that it cannot succeed, and that it will be better for this Grand □ to make some disposition of the matter."

The affairs of the Institution occupy a large portion of the Proceedings, and considerable legislation was had in relation to it.

The Grand □ adopted the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That according to the established usages of the Craft, it is impossible to grant Brother Christopher Guyer the sublime Degree of a Master Mason, in consequence of an Allwise dispensation of Providence, which deprives him of the ability to work in the said Degree."

This Brother Guyer, after being passed, lost both hands; and it was found not at all impossible, according to the established usages of the Craft, but, "on the contrary, quite the reverse," to give the unfortunate sufferer one hundred dollars out of the Charity Fund.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence review in detail the several Proceedings before them, and then give in compact form an abstract of the decisions of Grand ▭. It is an excellent arrangement—nothing but want of time has prevented our following it.

In noticing the Proceedings of California for 1856, the committee say:

"There can be no W.·. M.·. *pro. tem.;* no one can open the □ but the Master, or in his absence the Wardens, or a Past Master, if he be entrusted with the charter; but they do so in their official capacity, and not as *pro. tem.* of the W.·. M.·.; the S.·. W.·. is not a *pro. tem.* Master when he governs the □, but is Senior Warden acting as Master. The brother whom he seats in the West to fill his place for the time, is S.·. W.·. *pro tem.*, and so are the other officers he may appoint; but he sits in the orient in his own right, and governs the Craft as Senior Warden and not as W.·. Master *pro tem.*

We confess to having never thought of this before; but examination has satisfied us that the committee are right, and that Secretaries of ▭ should see that their minutes are properly written in this respect.

The committee give a page or two of other committees' opinions of a committee's duties, and add their own to the list. They advocate the appointment of the Grand Secretary as Chairman, as that member has in all bodies to do all the work; that he then be *paid* for his labor, so that he may afford time to make a proper digest of other reports, and that his report be printed in advance of the meetings of the Grand □, as is now done in several jurisdictions. To that report let the Grand Master's address be added.

Bro. Samuel H. Saunders was elected Grand Master, and Bro. W. A. O'Sullivan was re-elected Grand Secretary.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Grand Annual Communication held at Concord, June 9, 1857.

No list of members is given. Number of ⊟ returned, 32; members, 1570; Initiation, 319.

The Proceedings before us contain the reports of five District Deputy Grand Masters, and *each one* makes mention that he has granted several Dispensations for conferring Degrees. "The continued emigration going on in the country seems to render it necessary," says No. 1; "to enable them to confer the Degrees upon persons who were about removing to the West," says No. 2. "I have granted this □ one Dispensation to confer the first three Degrees at the same Communication," and "I have granted three Dispensations to this □ to confer the first three Degrees at the same Communication," says No. 3, without giving the reasons. "I have granted two Dispensations for membership in ⊟, and three for the Degrees in Masonry, to brethren about to leave the State," says No. 4. "I have, in some cases, granted Dispensations for conferring the Degrees sooner than our rules ordinarily warrant," says No. 5.

We have set the sins of our New Hampshire brethren "in order before their eyes," and have only to ask them to see how the record looks. There is one comfort,—if any of that "raw material" was sent to the Minnesota market, we hope Jordan will be found a hard road to travel in the examining room.

The Foreign Correspondence Committee in closing a lengthy report, say:

"In relation to cases of emergency, your committee have copied from the reports of other Grand ⊟ sufficient to show that it is the general opinion that real cases of emergency are very few, and that we have reason to fear that *too great facilities* are afforded unworthy men for initiation. Your committee beg leave to offer, for the consideration of the Grand □, the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, That as affiliation is a duty of every Mason, ⊟ under this jurisdiction are recommended to be very cautious in their intercourse with every person claiming to be a Mason, who cannot give evidence that he is a member of some regularly constituted □.

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Grand □, the desire of any person to be made a Mason because he wishes to travel, is no reason for considering it a case of emergency, and is not sufficient reason for granting a Dispensation to confer Degrees out of the usual course."

The resolutions were adopted by the Grand □. We had the curiosity to place the words "because he wishes to travel," by the side of the three interrogations to which every candidate must give a "full and free assent" before his initiation.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is a selection of interesting matter from the various Grand □ Proceedings.

The Proceedings of this Grand Body for 1856, are noticed, and the Address of the Grand Master is quoted at some length.

Grand Master Greeley declining a re-election, Bro. Geo. H. Hubbard was elected Grand Master, and Bro. Horace Chase was elected Grand Secretary.

NEW YORK.

Grand Annual Communication at New York City, June 2, 1857. Number of ⌂, 431; members, 24,670; Initiations, 3,878; Dispensations, 25.

Grand Master Lewis commences his Address thus:

"The Annual Convocation of the General Assembly of Masons is coeval with its written histories; the one enrolled in its archives, which flood and conflagration has not destroyed; the other written with the diamond pen of truth upon the tablets of the heart, which neither flood nor conflagration CAN destroy. On both is found inscribed the fact that the General Assembly has ever been a festal season, where good-will, harmony and freedom prevail, and the wise counsels of the veteran grey-bearded Master tempered the fiery enthusiam of the young and zealous Apprentice, and produced those beneficial results which have made it a blessing to the nations. * * * Around me and before me are to be seen the wise, the good and the great of our Fraternity; the grave and reverend countenances of the aged, whose half century of skill and experience have polished the shafts and adorned the capitals of each upreared column in the long vista of the past; those of middle age, upon whom time has yet laid lightly its frostening fingers; and the youthful, the generous, and the warm-hearted, fresh from the quarry and the ashlar, all imbued with one common purpose, to do good."

Another attempt has been made in New York to settle, among themselves, those "differences" upon which so many volumes have been written and so much advice volunteered. At the Annual Communication in 1856, a committee was appointed "to consider the whole subject and devise some means for its remedy." This committee consisted of Bros. Salem Town, Robert Macoy, John Gray, Henry W. Turner and Andres Cassard, who, after much consultation and deliberation among themselves, finally "determined to let the past rest in the 'gulf of dark forgetfulness,'" and "did *unanimously* agree, as an *ultimatum*, (without reference to former difference,) to offer the restoration to membership in the Grand ▭ of all such Past Masters of ⌂ under this jurisdiction, as should have been elected, installed and served one year in the Chair, as Master, prior to December 31, 1849."

With this olive branch in their hands the committee entered upon their duties, held conferences with the committee from the other Body, which "were of the most friendly and gentlemanly character," and soon agreed upon a preamble and Articles of Union to be submitted to the Grand Bodies which they represented. "And so satisfactory were our negotiations," says the the report, "that but three sittings of the committee were required for the completion of their labors."

These articles of Union were referred to the Committee on Condition of Masonry, from whom an adverse report was received, closing with a resolution that the said articles "do not meet the appro-

bation of this Grand ▭." This resolution was adopted by the decisive vote of seven hundred and eighty to two hundred and forty-seven.

Your committee have no remarks to offer upon this action of the Grand ▭ of New York. The Articles of Union were supported and opposed with much ardor by men of great talent and learning, whose love for the Order and desire for harmony cannot be questioned. The verdict of the world as to which is *the* Grand ▭ of New York, and *the only one*, is no doubtful verdict. That Body has supreme control within its own jurisdiction in dealing with recusant and clandestine Masons and ▭▭. The exercise of that power, we leave to the Grand ▭ of New York, believing it as competent to do justice and decide correctly as those who, looking from the outside, may not see *all* the bearings which influence final action. We may admire clemency—but we may not complain of justice. We may applaud that charity which waives a simple *right* for the sake of peace, and smoothes the return of an erring brother by putting out of sight those thorns to pride, the seeds of which in wrathful flight he flung behind him; but there is no occasion for interference if the hand that sowed is also required to reap. Brotherly love is a mighty element, and we have faith to believe that its frequent "breaking out" in these attempts at reconciliation will eventually lead to a determination to let it run for the general good of the system.

The Grand ▭ resolved to leave the bars down, and entrusted the watching of them to the Committee on Condition of Masonry, with instructions to receive and consider propositions and suggestions looking to harmony.

In a report of Bro. Finlay M. King, giving the Rules and Regulations now in force, which have been adopted by the Grand ▭ at different times, we find resolutions upon the following subjects: Forbidding giving Masonic relief to any not regularly affiliated. Against the use of profane language, as unmasonic, and rendering the Mason using it liable to the disciplinary laws of the Craft. Recommending Subordinate ▭▭ to keep a Visitor's Book, in which they shall require each visitor to sign his name, giving date of visit and name and locality of the ▭ from which he hails. That it is a violation of a Landmark, to make a Mason of one who has the disability of lameness occasioned by a shortened and crooked limb.

A resolution was adopted in accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Master, suspending Masonic intercourse between the Grand ▭▭ of New York and Pennsylvania, and forbidding the permission of visitation to Masons hailing from the latter State, "until

the Grand ☐ of Pennsylvania shall recognize this Grand ☐." There can hardly be a dispute but this action was rendered *necessary* by the conduct of the Pennsylvania ☐.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence covers over fifty pages of fine print. Bro. Finlay M. King is chairman, and the report is one of those documents which will add to the value of Masonic literature and give great comfort to every student who would perfect himself in our glorious art.

In noticing the Proceedings of Indiana, the committee say: An *appeal* was taken from the decision of the Grand Master on a resolution to amend the By-Laws of the Grand ☐, and the appeal was sustained and the resolution adopted. The instances where such an appeal has been taken are exceedingly rare. Indeed, we do not remember of but *one* in the history of Grand ☐ legislation; and the opinions of the Grand ☐ both in this country and Europe have been so uniform and decided against the right to take an appeal from the decision of the Grand Master, that we had supposed it would not again occur."

Bro. Jno. L. Lewis Jr., Grand Master, and Bro. James M. Austin, Grand Secretary, were re-elected.

OREGON.

Grand Annual Communication held at Salem, June 8, 1857. Number of ☐, 10; Members, 490; Initiations, 87.

The Proceedings of this Grand ☐ show that "good men and true" are the ruling spirits in it.

"Intemperance," says Grand Master Belt, "must always be the bane of any institution in which it gains a foothold, and especially must it bring dishonor upon such institutions when any of its members are allowed with impunity to engage openly and avowedly in the work of making drunkards, and scattering ruin abroad among peaceful and happy families, and to set at defiance in the pursuit of their dishonorable business the moral sense of all good men." The action of the Grand ☐ is invoked, and accordingly a resolution is passed declaring that the Mason "who is now or may be hereafter engaged in the retail sale and traffic of intoxicating liquors, shall be liable to Masonic discipline;" and making it the imperative duty of the W.·. M.·.of each Subordinate ☐ under that jurisdiction, to present to his ☐ every brother culpable in this particular, and, if found guilty, cause him to receive proper punishment. An edict was before in force, relative to the use of liquors, condemning intemperance as a good and legitimate cause for discipline.

The Grand ☐ resolved on a Committee to procure the portraits

of their "distinguished Past Grand Master, *for deposit in the archives* of this Grand ▭."

A code of By-Laws for Subordinate ▭▭ was adopted and ordered to be printed and sent down for approval at the expense of the Grand ▭.

The following excellent resolution was adopted :—

"*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Grand ▭, it is not sufficient that the committee appointed to investigate the character and qualifications of a petitioner for the mysteries of Masonry, that they find nothing *against* him, but they must state what his standing and qualifications are."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence acknowledges the receipt of the Proceedings of nineteen American Grand ▭▭, and in its review of them is brief, kindly and commendatory.

Bro. Benj. Stark is G.·. M.·. and Bro. W. S. Caldwell G.·. S.·.

OHIO.

Grand Annual Communication, at Zanesville, October 21, 1856 ; and at Massillon, October 20, 1857. Number of chartered ▭▭ in 1857, 298 ; Members, 10,913 ; Initiations, 2,078.

The Proceedings of 1856 come first in order for notice. Grand Master Dodds, in his address, reports the condition of the Craft, and his official acts during the year. He alludes to the mania for "secret societies," which appeared to so possess the public mind that nothing could be done without them, and then says: "When you make Masons, do it out of the raw material, and not from that which has been used for some other purpose : so that when they are finished they may be *all* Mason—head and heart—and not half one thing and half another, and really nothing at all."

P.·. G.·. M.·. L. V. Bierce presented the Grand ▭ with a setting maul manufactured from the wood of an olive that grew on the Mount of Olives, in Jerusalem,—saying, in his presentation letter, "the handle being of American hickory, denotes the intimate connection existing between American and ancient Jewish Masonry." That's what we call arguing "up to the handle."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, instead of noticing the Proceedings of the several Grand ▭▭ in detail, give a synopsis of decisions and opinions upon various important questions, as culled from Grand Master's addresses, Grand ▭ resolutions, and reports of committees. A mass of valuable information is thus reduced into very convenient shape for reference. Not the least valuable part of it is found in the opinions of the Ohio committee, freely given and well argued. Of the opinions thus collated, we can only notice a few very briefly. The matter of non-affiliation is treated at length,

and it appears very plainly that it does not remain a "vexed question" from the want of being "pitched into" by nearly all the Grand ⊟ of the Union. After reading the various opinions as to the actual Masonic whereabouts of non-affiliated Masons, we have resolved all doubts by concluding, with the North Carolina Foreign Committee, that they are—"nondescripts."

In regard to dimits, the committee say: "In some jurisdictions every one is entitled to a dimit who is in good standing and clear on the books. In other jurisdictions, they are for restraining the 'right,' as it is called, to the 'old landmarks;' that they should not dimit except when leaving the jurisdiction, or when the ▭ becomes too numerous, for the purpose of joining another. This is unquestionably the ancient rule; and the democratic doctrine of modern times, that a member can adhere as long as he pleases, and then dimit, and hold on to the rights and privileges, and be excused from the duties, is an innovation as inconsistent with ancient charges or landmarks as it is with right and justice."

One subject more—the Past Master's Degree. Ohio, California, Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Rhode Island, and Florida, do not recognize this *Degree* in Blue ▭ Masonry. In Virginia, the Wardens as well as Masters receive it; and we think, with the committee, that "Virginia is most consistent: for, if the Degree is necessary to fit one to preside as Master, and the Wardens preside in the absence of the Master, they certainly ought to have it to qualify them to preside."

The Proceedings for 1857, were received on the first day of the present Communication, and of course we have to barely glance at it, as we have only had time to do at many other Proceedings.

A committe appointed to "agree upon a ritual for the first three Degrees of Masonry," reported that they, "after having spent twelve days of arduous labor, unanimously agreed upon a ritual." This ritual was rehearsed to the Grand ▭, and was then approved.

A resolution was adopted, "that it be recommended to the Subordinate ⊟, on the death of a member leaving a widow, to furnish her with a diploma or certificate of the membership of her husband."

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence reported, "that it is not competent for a (Senior ?) Warden to resign during his term of office. In case of his absence from the ▭, the Junior Warden succeeds to his station, and the Master supplies the South *pro tempore*. The taking a dimit does not sever the membership of a brother receiving it unless he remove from the jurisdiction of the ▭; but such dimit is in the nature of a letter commendatory of the brother to

whom it is issued, for his admission to another ▭ ; nor does it disqualify him from holding office in the ▭ granting it."

Bros. W. B. Thrall and L. V. Bierce, both Past Grand Masters and eminent Masons, are members of the committee. We do not understand their idea of that apparently inexplicable thing—a dimit or demit. It may be, the difficulty with us is in the question of ▭ *membership*, which Brother Bierce seems to regard as being of a rather inherent nature,—holding, in his report as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in 1856, that "when a man is made a Mason he becomes a member of that ▭" in which the work is done.

M.·. W.·. Bro. Thrall, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presents a report of fifty closely printed pages. We laid down our pen to read it, but have not taken it again to copy. The Proceedings of this Grand ▭ are noticed and quoted from.

When the committee say, in commenting upon our remarks relative to committees upon petitions, "we are at a loss to know *precisely* 'upon which side of the fence' our friends have placed themselves on this question," we assure them that was *our* fix, exactly. We had been brought up under the committee system, and had never before heard of its peculiar monstrosity, though the disagreeableness of the duty, when compelled to report adversely, had been occasionally made apparent. Bro. Thrall says: "Is their position at all changed, we would ask, or do they ballot *less openly* where they are compelled to report favorably?" We reply, of course *not*. In reporting favorably, the *ballot* is just as open—a glass eye could see that; but the position of a committee reporting favorably is less unpleasant than when reporting unfavorably. We do not and did not endorse the Virginia committee's objections as being unanswerable, but quoted them for information, and obtruded our own misgivings merely, as a friend is wont to remark, "by way of suggestion."

Brother Horace M. Stokes was chosen Grand Master, and Brother John D. Caldwell was re-elected Grand Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Quarterly Communication for election of officers, December 1, 1856. Extra Quarterly Communication to receive the report of the Board of Almoners of the Grand ▭ Charity Fund, December 15, 1856. Annual Grand Communication, St. John the Evangelist's Day. Extra Communication, January 5, 1857.

The Grand Master's address, the reports of the various committees,

and the list of Grand officers and of committees appointed, make up the *whole* of the volume before us. No list of ▭ or members, no returns, no report of business transacted other than receiving reports.

Your committee cannot but regret this. There are many brethren in this Territory who hail from the Keystone State, and they would doubtless be glad to hear from *home*. That the Pennsylvania brethren do not show to visitors the reserve which their published Proceedings display, has been to your chairman "made evident by ocular demonstration." Never has he in his short Masonic experience received elsewhere the attention, the welcome, and those thousand nameless acts of courtesy and regard, which were bestowed with brotherly prodigality upon him, by the officers of that Grand ▭, while visiting in Philadelphia last spring. It was not a *personal* matter, but assurance of the respect and sincere attachment felt by the warm-hearted Fraternity in the city of Brotherly Love, towards their fellow Craftsmen in Minnesota, and conveyed to you through the medium of one of your Grand Officers. The recollection of it will ever remain among the pleasantest of pleasant memories.

Brother Peter Williamson is Grand Master, and Brother Wm. H. Adams is Grand Secretary.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Annual, Special, and Quarterly Communications during the year 1856. Number of ▭, 91.

At the Quarterly Communication in March, Bro. Mackey, whom Brother Bierce, of Ohio, calls "an embodiment of Masonic law himself," reported a Code of By-Laws for the government of Subordinate ▭. We will copy enough of the Proceedings to show the fate of the report, as it may illustrate Bro. Mackey's standing for ability at home:

"A motion was made to postpone the consideration of the Code, and have it printed, which was lost.

"A motion was made to postpone the consideration of it until the next Quarterly Communication, which was also lost.

"It was moved that the Code be read by clauses, which was lost.

"The report was then accepted, and the Code of By-Laws was adopted, and it was ordered that the Subordinate ▭ be instructed, in the construction of their By-Laws, to conform substantially to this formula."

Brother Mackey performs, as Grand Secretary, the duties of a Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and the style of his report—the easy, simple, and conclusive way in which he writes—betrays, as it were, the unconscious familiarity of the veteran, whose causal and apparently careless blows always hit the mark and smooth a rough corner, and is in strong constrast with the nervous, anxious whacking of the novice, who drives a trip-hammer at a speck of

dust. As Bro. Mackey is the only one to our knowledge who has said a word in favor of Jewelers' Masonry, we give his ideas upon the subject:

"Our emblems were intended as media for important moral and religious instruction, and it must be a desecration of them to use them for purposes of trade, or to seek, by their influence, to arrest the custom of a passing traveler, or to persuade the patronage of a commercial correspondent. But if the latter clause alludes to the wearing of Masonic breastpins, finger-rings, watch-keys or other kinds of jewelry, I doubt the expediency of legislating on the subject of fashions; nor can I see any more harm in a Mason's adorning his bosom with the square and compass, if he is fond of jewelry, than there is for a christian to wear a brooch in the form of a cross, as a sort of indication of his religious faith. In fact, the orders of chivalry, which in many parts of their organization are assimilated to Masonry, absolutely require the use of distinctive badges, and if the Knight of the Garter takes pride in his 'Star and George,' why should not the Freemason be at liberty to announce to the world, by some tasteful token which he wears about his person, his connection with the Fraternity, and his boast of that connection. Masonic signs are 'tricks of trade,' Masonic breastpins are marks of attachment to the Order. At all events I am constrained, with all respect for the Grand ▭ of Texas, to doubt the expediency of legislating on the subject of a Mason's everyday dress. Let that be left to each one's taste and sense of propriety."

Brother Alfred Price is Grand Master, and Bro. A. G. Mackey, Grand Secretary of South Carolina.

TENNESSEE.

Grand Annual Communication at Nashville, Oct. 6, 1856. Number of ▭, 258, members, 7,759, initiations, 982.

The Grand Master announces, and the Proceedings show a prosperous and flourishing condition of the Order in that State. But little business of a public nature was transacted.

A resolution was passed, requiring Masters of ▭ to have the Ancient Constitutions of Masonry read in their ▭ once in six months.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence notice our Proceedings for 1855, and say:

"The Fraternity in this jurisdiction are doing well, and unless the fault of trying to do too much, especially in legislation, be committed by them, as we greatly fear some of the Grand ▭ are doing, we shall expect them to flourish as the 'green bay tree.'"

Brother Thomas McCulloch is Grand Master, and Bro. Charles A. Fuller, Grand Secretary.

TEXAS.

Grand Annual Communication held at Palestine, January 19, 1857. Number of ▭, 183, members, 6,048.

The Grand Master, Sexton, in his opening address, says:

"Whatever may be said of Masonry in the past, or whatever may be its future fate, we know that in Texas it has put out the fires of discord, dried up the tears of distress, given food and clothing to the hungry and destitute, encouraged the fatherless, cleared up the gloom from the pathway

of struggling merit, and kept back the maddening torrent of passion which would precipitate man in deadly conflict with his fellow-man."

He argues at length the doctrine that a candidate for Masonry must believe in the Bible as the revealed will of God. The address is long and minute upon the various matters connected with his official action.

The Grand ▭ passed a resolution "that hereafter no ▭ shall suspend a brother for a definite time—but all suspensions shall be for an indefinite time."

In a report of the Committee on Work and Returns, the following errors are pointed out in the record of a ▭ U.·. D.·.: "No mention is made throughout the entire Work, of any members being present except the officers. Three candidates for the E.·. A.·. Degree were initiated at the same time."

In accordance with the report of a committee upon the Grand Master's address, the following was adopted unanimously:

"*Resolved*, That the Grand ▭ of Texas declares, that a belief in the Divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, is an indispensable pre-requisite to Masonic admission; and the Grand ▭ does not mean to exclude the Israelite, whom it does not regard as being disqualified for the mysteries of Freemasonry."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence review the Proceedings of nineteen Grand ▭. We quote, endorse, appropriate and give, as entirely original with us, and a veritable history of our own situation in its every particular, the following apologetic remarks:

"When it is understood that the chairman of this committee received the communications upon which he has to report, at a very late day—that since they were received, his time has been so much occupied with professional engagements, that he has had but little over one week to examine the immense mass of matter embraced in those communications—that during that limited time he has been subjected to almost ceaseless interruptions: and, *instar omnium*, that although he has no infancy to plead, yet he is almost a complete tyro in Masonic jurisprudence, and woefully deficient in the transactions of sister Grand Bodies, he feels well assured that the mantle of Masonic indulgence will be thrown upon his defective work, and that its imperfections will be ascribed to the unskillfulness of the artizan rather than to faults in his material."

Bro. William Stedman was elected Grand Master, and Bro. A. S. Ruthven, Grand Secretary.

VIRGINIA.

Grand Annual Communication held at Richmond, December 8, 1856. Number of ▭, 157, members, 4,887.

Grand Master Leitch congratulates the Craft on the condition of Masonry; deprecates, as an error, the practice of conferring the Degrees in rapid succession; reprehends the making a mere matter of form of an examination in open ▭; calls it improper to confer the first section of the first or second Degree, and the first or second

section of the third Degree upon more than one candidate by the same ceremony; and pronounces, as fraught with mischief, the practice of conferring Degrees on *credit*. "I have," says he, "scarcely ever known a ▭—more especially in the country—in which this [credit] custom prevailed, that did not die after a short, feeble, and almost useless existence."

We must quote from the closing remarks of the address:

"In conclusion, my brethren, standing as I do among aged and experienced brethren who have borne up the ark in sunshine and in storm, I feel that any advice I could give, would be work of supererogation; yet, permit me to admonish you to guard well the avenues to the temple. In the height of our prosperity and usefulness, the vestibules to our halls will be crowded with those who are anxious to bow at our altars; it is important, then, that we scrutinize well the characters of the applicants. Admit none but the *intelligent* and *worthy*. Be not rash in rejecting, but be *cautious* in receiving. Do not increase your members at the expense of the respectability of your ▭. Sacrifice nothing that belongs to Masonry for the sake of writing *legion* in your archives. Looking yourselves to the ancient landmarks, see that brethren are well instructed—that they may trace the lines and know the value of one Degree before you give them the light of another."

Resolutions were passed condemning the conferring of Degrees before proficiency was acquired, requiring ▭ to see that candidates for advancement, proved themselves upon examination in open ▭, proficient in the first section of the Degree from which advancement was prayed; that the Grand ▭ insist upon pre-payment for conferring a Degree; and forbidding the conferring any portion of either Degree, except the explanatory lectures, upon more than one candidate at a time.

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, in answer to the question, "Have the brothers who have been initiated, passed, and raised in a ▭ U.·. D.·., a right to vote?" say, "They have not until they become members of a chartered ▭." A resolution was adopted prohibiting the referring of petitions for admission into Masonry, to special committees.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is very brief, not reviewing the Proceedings of other Grand Bodies, and discussing only one or two questions. The danger to which our Order is exposed from too great and too easy admission into its ranks, is dwelt upon with much earnestness. The practice of "approving" the minutes of one Communication at a succeeding one, receives particular attention, as being a departure from old customs. We will give the committee's idea of how the thing should be done:

"The Secretary is required 'to observe the Proceedings of the ▭, keep a fair record of all things proper to be written,' &c., &c., hence, everything which transpires is regularly written in a book called the *Minute-book*, and, before the ▭ is closed, these Proceedings are read and corrected by order of the Master; and if anything should have escaped his attention, some member suggests the omission, the amendment is made, and the

question submitted, '*Are the minutes correct?*' the record is then signed by the Master and attested by the Secretary; the ▭ is then closed, and the Proceedings stand as the Work of the ▭, for good or for evil, without power at any subsequent meeting to alter or amend, condemn or approve. These Proceedings are then neatly transcribed in the 'RECORD-BOOK,' and read at the next *Stated Communication*—and for what? Not for its approval, for its chartered rights are no greater than those of the preceding ▭—not to test the accuracy of the Secretary in transcribing, for the ▭, being composed of different members, cannot possibly know what transpired at the meeting before; but, simply for information to the members, and also to enable the Master to draw his designs upon the trestle-board, and shape the business of the ▭ accordingly."

Bro. John S. Caldwell was elected Grand Master, and Bro. John Dove was re-elected Grand Secretary.

VERMONT.

Grand Annual Communication held at Burlington, January 14, 1857. Number of ▭, 41, members, 2234.

Vermont having, at a former Communication, recognized the Grand ▭ of Canada, and Massachusetts having not only refused such recognition, but strictly forbidden Masonic intercourse with that Grand ▭ *or any* ▭ or individual having any connection therewith, Grand Master Philip C. Tucker proceeds in his address to vindicate at length the action of Vermont and show the *right* of the Canadian brethren to take the course they did. To say that he has successfully accomplished his task, is but meagre praise—his address will ever stand as one of the finest specimens of successful argument to be found anywhere in controversial history. Says Bro. Parvin, of Iowa: "We regard the address of Bro. Tucker as the ablest Masonic document of the last year, upon any subject."

Your committee have been surprised at not finding in the archives of this Grand ▭ anything from Massachusetts, but attributed the omission to postal delinquencies—never dreaming that the old Bay State, which holds the "cradle of liberty," considered us as beyond the pale of the "regularly constituted." Yet it would seem to be even so. We have not been fortunate enough to procure, even "clandestinely," a copy of the Massachusetts Proceedings, and are indebted to the notices in Proceedings of other Grand Bodies, for all information relative to that *eminent* stickler for loyalty. After reading what we can pick up of extracts from a report which was adopted, we are fully satisfied that had the excessive veneration for that word "allegiance," and the equally excessive horror of that word "rebellion," which has been displayed by the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts, actuated the colonists of Massachusetts some eighty odd years ago, the "men of Boston" couldn't have been *kicked* into resistance of insolence and oppression on the part of a neglectful government abroad and a haughty soldiery at home. This, however, is a mere opinion of your committee, which the Grand ▭ needn't adopt.

There is one portion of that report, however, which it is proper to bring before this Grand ▭. The Massachusetts committee, in making out a "case" against these "rebellious" Canadian brethren, took the following position:

"Each Grand ▭ in the United States rules and governs, without interference from any other, all ▭ within the civil jurisdiction of the State in which she is situated—holds the Territories as common ground, wherein each Grand ▭ is free to charter ▭ at pleasure, until *each Territory, by being regularly admitted to the Union as a State*, acquires the right to form a Grand ▭ for itself. Your committee are aware that this has sometimes been done before admission *as a State;* but although it may be alleged in excuse that Territories are States in process of formation, we still think the practice illegal, and *not to be justified in any case*, the only safe rule, in our opinion, being that laid down."

This report was adopted, and therefore the declaration of the committee became, of course, the decision of the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts.

Your committee are happy to state that we are not without prompt and able defenders against this general onslaught upon Territorial Grand ▭. So many of the sister Grand ▭ in the United States have extended the hand of fellowship with cordial greetings, that when the regularity and legality of our existence is brought in question, our cause becomes the common cause of *almost* the entire Union.

Brother Tucker, quoting the foregoing paragraph, says: "The first portion of this opinion admits of no controversy—no one denies its truth or correctness. The second portion has no truth to sustain it, and if Massachusetts holds to it, she stands *alone*. I would be highly thankful to know *when, where, and by whom* any such rule as to the Grand ▭ of the *Territories*, was established, and *what* Grand ▭ has either assented to or acquiesced in it. For myself, I know of none. If such Grand ▭ are of doubtful validity, I cannot withhold the question whether my own native and loved State is not now in full Masonic communion with Minnesota, Oregon and Kansas?—and if she is not, why she does not inform her sister Grand ▭ that her Masonic Compasses do not embrace them in their circle of Masonic brotherhood."

The Louisiana Committee on Foreign Correspondence, say upon the same subject: "What has become of the principles which have always, by common consent, governed? Where is an indication of the common consent to be found? What has been the common practice but directly the opposite of what the Massachusetts committee state? There is nothing to support the principle claimed, but the simple *ipse dixit* of the Massachusetts committee. Who ever heard it declared that the Masons in Florida, Minnesota, Oregon, and Kansas, were in open rebellion? Whose consent have they

ever obtained but their own to the formation of their Grand ▭? Whose did they require? And have they not been recognized—yes, congratulated, even—by nearly every Grand ▭ in the world, including the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts, on the formation of their Grand ▭? And has that Grand ▭ ever dreamed of suspending Masonic intercourse with these, our sister Grand ▭, their constituents or members, for open rebellion or any other cause? Of course not. As we in substance have said before, we most emphatically deny that *it is a principle universally received by common consent, that until each Territory has been regularly admitted into the Union as a State, the Masons therein have not the right, if sufficient in numbers, to form a Grand ▭ for themselves.* It is the opposite doctrine which has always been acquiesced in by common consent, and the Massachusetts committee are the first to declare it illegal, when it has become necessary for them to do so to sustain what otherwise would be an untenable position. * * * What body of Masons in a Territory or new State did ever ask the consent of their parent Grand ▭ to the formation of a new Grand ▭? On the contrary, they first organized their Grand ▭ generally as soon as *three* ▭ would consent, whether a Territory or State—proclaimed themselves as the equals, the peers, of the oldest Grand ▭ in the world—took their stand as such, and were maintained in it."

The Texas Foreign Committee say, speaking of "the rule of exclusive jurisdiction:"

"It is founded upon the Masonic principle that Masons are their own rulers and governors, under the ancient landmarks, and that while it is necessary that established Grand ▭ should *introduce* the Order into countries where it does not already exist, yet so soon as Masons are sufficiently numerous to govern themselves, the inherent right of self-government overrides any authority which can be assumed by a power outside of their borders, and a Grand ▭ for the government and still further extension of the society, may be formed. * * * So soon as three or more ▭ are organized under a legitimate Masonic power, in a country separated by distance or different Masonic interests, it is lawful for them to unite and exercise all the powers of a Grand ▭."

While your committee have that natural desire which is characteristic of people generally, to wield their own cudgel when they have "a sure thing of it," yet utter want of both time and necessity compels us to leave this subject with one further remark. Whether or not the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts has recognized this Grand ▭, we have no means of knowing, except from the implied assertion of the Louisiana committee that she has, and the reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the report we have quoted, that she has not. In either case no action on our part can be necessary, as there has been no collision between the two jurisdictions. Massachusetts has never yet seen fit, or had the opportunity—it is imma-

terial which—to appropriate any portion of Minnesota, as her share of that "common ground wherein each Grand ▭ is free to charter ▭ at pleasure." It is now too late for her to do so; and therefore, deploring her shortsighted selfishness—lamenting the evident intention to ignore the manner of her own birth, and hoping she may yet learn the true extent and meaning of "squatter sovereignty,"—we have only to let her go. If she is not convinced by what has been already written, "neither would she be persuaded though one rose from the dead."

The Grand ▭ passed resolutions indefinitely suspending unaffiliated Masons, unless they show cause for their non-affiliation, and declaring that all Masons who shall, from choice, habitually and constantly absent themselves from the Communications, and neglect payment of the dues of their respective ▭, within one year after they shall become due, and notice given, shall be and are hereby considered as non-affiliated Masons, and treated accordingly.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence gives a summary of the Proceedings of twenty-nine Grand ▭.

Philip C. Tucker, Grand Master, John B. Hollenbeck, Grand Secretary.

WISCONSIN.

Grand Annual Communication held at Milwaukee, June 9, 1857. Number of ▭, 89; Members, 2545; Initiations, 684; Dispensations, 14.

We find nothing of general interest in the Proceedings before us.

The Grand Master rejoices in the general prosperity of the country, the State, and the Order, and makes some excellent observations of a cautionary character. There is no report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

An amendment to the Constitution was adopted, providing that under no circumstances should a petition for any of the Degrees, presented to a ▭, be withdrawn, but should be acted upon by the reception or rejection of the candidate.

Bro. Henry S. Baird, Grand Master, and Bro. William R. Smith, Grand Secretary, were re-elected.

CANADA.

Your committee had commenced making out a statement of the condition of Masonic matters in this Province, but have, after some reflection, concluded to recommend the publication, as an appendix to our printed Proceedings, of so much of Bro. Tucker's address before alluded to, as relates to the Grand ▭ of Canada. This recommendation is made for several reasons. Bro. Tucker, one of the

ablest Masonic jurists in the world, gives a plain and concise account of the origin and early construction of Grand ▭. This will be of interest to the Craft. In consequence of the action of Massachusetts, he has discussed the subject of Grand ▭ Territorial jurisdiction—a question in which this Grand ▭ is directly interested, as it affects her Masonic standing. This matter, too, will interest the brethren.

With this suggestion, we will briefly say: that in 1855, forty-one of the Canada ▭, constituted originally under the Grand ▭ of England, Scotland and Ireland, threw off all foreign allegiance, and organized an Independent Grand ▭. The reasons for this step were given at length—reasons both common and true in the histories of colonies: oppression and neglect. The remaining ▭ continued faithful to the mother ▭ in England, declaring that "although nearly all the entire Craft agreed in the belief that an independent organization was essential to the proper and effectual working of the Craft in this Province, yet, they were fully determined to obtain their position in a legitimate manner, and not by violence." Vain hope. After two years more of wrong and outrage—after seeing their most urgent yet most humble petitions and remonstrances treated with utter disregard and even with marked indignity, all this being but a continuation of the same treatment suffered prior to 1855—those very ▭ which had expressed such self-sacrificing loyalty, were compelled to follow in the wake of the forty-one which had before asserted their independence. During the last season, the Provincial Grand ▭ of Canada West met for the last time. Upon meeting, the ▭ composing it declared their independence of the Grand ▭ of England, delivered up their charters to the Provincial Grand Master, and then proceeded to organize an independent body, under the name of The Ancient Grand ▭ of Canada.

That the Grand ▭ of Minnesota can now deny the right of the Canada ▭ to form an independent Grand ▭, without denying the regularity of her own existence, is hardly possible. There can be scarcely less question, it seems to your committee, as to which of the two bodies claiming to be the Grand ▭ of Canada, should be recognized. Our own history is a parallel case with that of Canada. In the early settlement of this Territory, charters to open ▭ were obtained from the States. A constitutional number soon existed, and then, without regard to the place from which those charters were obtained, the ▭ met in Convention, and, asking each other but the simple question, Is yours a regularly constituted ▭? they proceeded to organize a Grand ▭. As soon as that organization was perfected, a jurisdiction was created, and no other Grand ▭ could be

legally formed in the same Territory. The old rule of law became peculiarly applicable: *Qui prior est in tempore, potior est in jure.*

In precisely the same position were affairs in Canada. The ▭ there received their charters from the several jurisdictions of England, Scotland and Ireland. A constitutional number, after giving due notice, met and formed a Grand ▭. By that act a territorial jurisdiction was at once acquired. Could the ▭ which, although duly notified, refused to become members of that body, afterwards, on precisely the same grounds, and within the same territory, erect another jurisdiction? Certainly not in Canada, any more than in Minnesota.

But again. Those ▭ were legally constituted only by virtue of the charters under which they acted. The moment those charters were surrendered, the ▭ ceased to exist, and the members of them became at once non-affiliated Masons. Can a body of non-affiliated Masons form a Grand ▭? If so, of whom is it composed? Not of the representatives of Subordinate ▭, for there are none. And what does it represent? Not a number of Subordinate ▭, for there are none. A strange myth would the Grand ▭ be which was composed of nobody and represented nothing.

W. M. Wilson, G.·. M.·., and Thos. Bird Harris, G.·. S.·. of the Independent Grand ▭ of Canada.

In conclusion, your committee will allude to two matters which are mentioned in a number of the Proceedings we have had in review. The first is, the sad inroads which death has made in very many sister Grand ▭. Grand Masters, Deputies, Wardens, Secretary and Tyler—none have been exempt. One or more of each of those officers has been summoned away from the Grand ▭ on earth, to a far grander ▭ above. Our sympathies are with the bereaved. "Our thoughts put mourning on," as we picture the scene which has transpired in many a chastened ▭ during the last year and a half. May we be warned to see to it, that none but *perfect work* is turned out in our ▭—work fit for that "Spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

The remaining subject to be spoken of, is a Masonic Library. The Grand ▭ should possess one, and the sooner she commences acquiring it, the less will be her distance behind the majority of Grand ▭.

Your committee have noticed that a goodly number of Grand ▭ have voted to purchase, and have recommended Subordinate ▭ to purchase the Universal Masonic Library, a thirty-volumed enterprise undertaken by R.·.W.·. Bro. Rob. Morris. It is a perfect library in itself, and your committee would recommend that if the "financial

pressure" in the Treasury is heavy enough, those works be obtained as the beginning of a library, not on account of their intrinsic value alone, but that they may remain in our archives as a perpetual memorial of the perseverance of Bro. Morris, who has pushed on the enterprise through difficulties that would have vexed the life out of a more desponding soul.

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, } Committee.
HENRY REYNOLDS, }

EXTRACT FROM ADDRESS OF M.·. W.·. PHILIP C. TUCKER, G.·. M.·. OF VERMONT, REFERRED TO IN FOREGOING REPORT.

During the past year the important question relating to the Grand ▭ of Canada—and which this Grand ▭ passed upon, to its own entire satisfaction, at its last Annual Communication—has been agitated in other Grand ▭, with differing results. The Grand ▭ of Ireland, and the Grand ▭ of Kentucky, South Carolina, Louisiana, Michigan, Iowa, the District of Columbia, and some others, I am advised, agree with the decision made by Vermont. The Grand ▭ of England and Scotland, abroad, and those of Massachusetts, New York, Missouri and Virginia, at home, hold adverse opinions to ours. The Grand ▭ of Maine, Wisconsin, Connecticut and some others, have the subject under consideration, and some of the Grand ▭ of the United States have not, so far as I am informed, yet taken it up for consideration at all.

It is not to be doubted, that if this Grand ▭ saw even specious reasons to sustain the opinion that its action had been premature on this important subject, it would, from a sense of duty, review it. Assuredly if I had been convinced; or—even less than that—had I seen any strong reasons to create doubt as to the entire correctness and soundness of our action of last year, I should feel it to be my duty now to recommend a new investigation. I have endeavored to obtain all the information in my power, and to examine carefully and impartially all the argument which has come to my hands during the year; and so far from finding any weakening of my opinion, the result has been to strengthen and confirm the judgment I had previously formed—that both as matter of duty, of honor, of policy, and of sound Masonic principle, the ▭ of Canada which assembled at Hamilton on the tenth day of October, 1855, and formed an independent Grand ▭ for Canada, acted lawfully and right, and upon every correct principle of Masonic law, usage, practice and precedent—as well as brotherhood—ought to be sustained by the Grand ▭ of the United States.

In the differences of opinion which have arisen out of the consideration of this subject, *one* Grand ▭—out of great caution— has *reviewed* its action of last year. Massachusetts, with her aged Grand ▭ and her acknowledged Masonic learning and talent, staggered the District of Columbia by her adverse action; or rather, perhaps, shook the opinion of its Grand Master. A re-investigation was directed by that Grand Master, the chairman of the committee for the purpose being that enlightened, learned, and well informed Mason, Brother Benjamin B. French, of the city of Washington. The result is before the Masonic world. A thorough re-examination of the subject confirmed a most intelligent committee in the former view taken by that Grand ▭, and their views were confirmed by it, supporting the decision that had been previously made. Brother French and his associates are among the most intelligent Masons of the United States, and they are brethren who can never be justly charged with lending their sanction to law-breaking or revolution in the Masonic world.

When this subject was under consideration in our own Grand □, at its last Annual Communication, I studiously withheld any expression of my own opinion: nor was that opinion known beyond myself, until you, my brethren, had, by a unanimous vote, extended the right hand of Masonic fellowship to the independent Grand □ of Canada. As I was not heard in argument, then, I anticipate your willingness to hear me patiently now, when the correctness of your action has been questioned elsewhere.

Grand □, as they exist at the present time, and as they have existed from the year 1717, are wholly *new* institutions. They are not institutions of ancient date, and have no odor of antiquity about them. In the olden time every single □ was wholly independent, and the privilege of practising the Masonic rites was *inherent* in Masons, when assembled together in due form, as individuals. The charter obtained, not far from the beginning of the fourth century, "from the King and Council," by Saint Alban, empowered those Masons simply to hold a "General Council," which was called an "Assembly." That "Council" or "Assembly" did not consist of members by delegations from □. It was a *general* one, embracing the Craft, as it then existed in England, *at large;* and it was the duty of *every* Mason to attend it, if he lived within fifty miles of the place of assemblage, and had "proper warning."

Nor was the gathering of the Masons at the city of York, under Prince Edwin, in 926, a *Grand* □, in any fair modern understanding of those terms. It was a "Congregation" of Masons only, who composed a "*General* □," of which he was Grand Master. He was Grand Master of *Masons*, but not of a *Grand* □, as now understood; for *no such Grand Body then existed.*

It is doubtless true that the York "Assembly" exercised jurisdiction, in its day, over *all* the Masons of England; probably from 926 to 1567, but such jurisdiction was not considered, by those Masons, as *exclusive.* It was not thus acknowledged by them; for in that same year, 1567—without reference to the York "Assembly" at all—the Masons of the Southern part of England placed themselves *independently* under a new Grand Master, and there was, for a long period of years, two Grand Masters for that Kingdom.

In the early part of the eighteenth century, Masonry generally in England had fallen into desuetude. In the year 1715, four London □ assembled upon their own motion, and by their own voluntary action constituted themselves a "*Grand* □ *pro tempore.*" At the annual assembly and feast, on Saint John the Baptist's day, 1717, these same □, thus, by self-action, constituted into a Grand □, for the first time adopted a regulation to restrain the old unlimited manner of Masonic meetings, and to establish □ in certain places, which should be legally authorized to act by a warrant from the Grand Master, with the consent and approbation of the Grand □, and that without such warrant, no □ should be deemed regular or constitutional.

Here, then, we have four □, arranged upon the *old* system, congregating themselves together to inaugurate and establish a *system.* The whole history of things at York was unheeded by them; no consent is asked from that quarter, nor is even the then *Grand Master of the Masons of England* consulted, who was living in that same city of London, and who did not pay the debt of nature until the year 1723.

From this action sprang the Grand □ of England, which has come down to our own times. Ireland followed first, and Scotland succeeded her. I do not refer to any Masonic organizations of this kind upon the continent of Europe, because with them we have no common policy, no long connection, and especially because, upon this continent, we have never looked to that quarter for Masonic precedent.

The beginning of Grand □, as we understand those institutions in our own day, was established at the London meetings of the four □ of 1715 and 1717. Ireland followed the path made by *them.* Scotland followed in a manner, though not *identical*, quite as *independent*, and the Grand □ on this side of the Atlantic, have found no occasion for widening and enlarging the precedent of 1715–17.

I do not mean, for a moment, to doubt the *wisdom* of the action of 1715-17,

or the *right* of the four London ▭ to *do* precisely what they *did* do. I intend to claim, however, that *other* Masonic action, equally legitimate, equally worthy, and equally important, is *as equally* to be *recognized* at this hour, as if it had the sanction of one hundred and forty years to strengthen the foundation of its *right*. I am not aware that any intelligent Mason desires to disturb a system of action which has been sanctioned by long acquiescence, and which has resulted in the harmony and happiness of the Order. I yield to the power of a precedent, however established, which settles a wise course of future action, but I can never agree to see a *new* precedent tortured into working the highest practical injustice.

The Grand ▭ of Ireland dates from 1730. It was formed in "imitation of the Grand ▭ of England," and chose for its first Grand Master a brother who had been, the previous year, Grand Master of the Grand ▭ of England. The Constitution and usages of the Grand ▭ of England were adopted by it.

The Grand ▭ of Scotland was formed in 1736. Masonry had then existed in that country for centuries; but not until November the 30th—Saint Andrew's day—of that year, did the ▭ of that country assemble to organize as a common body and choose their own Grand Master. Previously the Grand Mastership of Masons for Scotland had been hereditary in the family of Roslin. William Saint Clair, of Roslin, having intimated to his Masonic brethren his wish to resign his hereditary Grand Mastership, assembled his brethren of the ▭ in and about Edinburgh, and wished them to determine upon a plan for the *election* of a Grand Master. Thirty-four ▭ appeared or were represented by their proxies, and at this meeting the office of Grand Master in Scotland became, for the first time, *elective*. This Grand ▭ had the assent of the *Grand Master of Masons* of Scotland for its formation, differing, in this particular, from the Grand ▭ of England.

The entire history of the formation of these three Grand ▭ is overwhelming—I had almost said omnipotent—to prove that they were all *voluntary* Masonic associations, growing naturally out of the necessities of the Order, and assuming, as associations, the power of proper organization as an inherent right. It was never claimed—and it never can be truthfully claimed—that any *ancient Constitution* conferred the right which was exercised. Old Constitutions and charges may be studied for that in vain. The right to form such bodies was *assumed*, and the *extent of jurisdiction* was also *assumed* and engrafted upon it, as well as the form and manner of Masonic government.

Neither of the three Grand ▭ thus formed went so far as to assume *exclusive* Masonic jurisdiction out of England, Ireland and Scotland. The only *exclusive* power assumed was to their own respective territories at home. When those were passed they exercised a common power. Wherever any one of them might grant a warrant of Constitution or locate a Provincial Grand Master *abroad*, either of the others might do the same. The Grand ▭ of England and Scotland so understood the subject, and both of them created Provincial Grand Masters in the colony of Massachusetts antecedent to the revolution. The subsequent history of the Masonic bodies established by those Provincial Grand Masters, is full of interest, as bearing upon the question under consideration, and I shall have cause to refer to it in the course of my examination of this subject.

One, at least, of the Provincial Grand Masters appointed by the Grand ▭ of England, did not understand that the American revolution severed the *Masonic* connection between the parent power and the newly created States upon this Northern continent. In 1791, the R.·. W.·. John Johnson, then the English Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, granted a warrant of Constitution to his Excellency, Thomas Chittenden, then Governor of the State of Vermont, and his associates, for the establishment of a ▭ at Vergennes, by the name of Dorchester ▭. This ▭ was duly constituted under that warrant, and worked under it until October, 1794, when, in connection with the other four ▭ in the State which had charters from the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts and New York, it aided in forming the present Grand ▭ of Vermont, and forcibly severing its connection with Canada, has ever since hailed under the new jurisdiction. The

Provincial Grand Master of Canada never complained of this action or denied the right of Dorchester ▭, of its own motion, to make the severance and aid in establishing a new and independent jurisdiction.

It was assumed by all the State Masonic Institutions of this country which existed before the revolutionary war, that the dissolution of the *political* necessarily involved a dissolution of the Masonic tie, and they acted accordingly. This, in my judgment, was a further stretch of the line of Masonic independence than anything which has happened since. I am not aware that a Masonic pen was ever raised to sustain this assumption as resting on authority, precedent or principle; and yet, three out of four of the Grand ▭ of the United States who skrink instinctively from the word *independence* when the stern north-wind bears it to us from Canada, found no difficulty either in using the word or carrying out the full force of its meaning *practically* in their own cases.

Ever since the American revolution the Masonic practice in the United States has been that, when three or more warranted ▭ are established in any State or Territory where no Grand ▭ exists, they possess the *inherent* right to meet together and form one themselves, and it is not, and never was, considered necessary to ask the consent of the Grand ▭ or Grand ▭ from which their respective warrants emanated, for this purpose. Most of the Grand ▭ in the United States have been formed in this way, and every Grand ▭ has sanctioned this mode of action, so that the practice and the principle are beyond dispute. I need only name Iowa, Texas, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas—Grand ▭ all comparatively of yesterday, and all formed in this and in no other manner.

With what show of reason, then, can we discard this acknowledged principle and practice? England, Scotland, Ireland, assumed it, and the Grand ▭ of the United States have followed out the assumption. What decent apology can we give for attempting to discard it now, only because our northern brother has followed in the common path?

Nice distinctions have been drawn, and all kinds of contrasts and comparisons invoked, to show differences between the case of the Independent Grand ▭ of Canada and all antecedent precedents. I have been unable, thus far, so far to stultify my own intellect as to appreciate them as proving distinctions in *principle*. Two or a dozen sets of facts may fall within the fair application of the same principle, though in many respects variant from each other. It requires none of the subtle logic of special pleading to make this obvious to every unprejudiced and clear minded man; but when a set of facts having no common analogy whatever with another set of facts, are drawn into a controversy and made the basis of an argument, those who rely upon them ought at least to be able to show their assimilation as bearing upon the principle they are relied on to sustain.

The Canadian Masonic action of the 10th of October, 1855, has in some quarters been treated as analagous to the various Masonic revolutions in the State of New York. To my own conceptions, no analogy was ever more absurd. Had England experienced a division of her own Grand ▭ by revolutionary means, on the soil of England, at home, the cases would have had some resemblance to each other; but they have no more resemblance of revolution now than the formation of the last Grand ▭ of Michigan, by ▭ holding warrants from the Grand ▭ of New York, has of revolutionary action towards that State. Michigan had the right to go alone, when she was Masonically and constitutionally strong enough, on well recognized principles: as Vermont had, and many other States, and as they *did*, without exception from any quarter.

And precisely with as much propriety might Massachusetts, with her warranted ▭ in Vermont in 1794; New York with the same number; and England itself, with its *one* granted through its Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada,—declare the Grand ▭ which those Subordinate ▭ formed, to be unmasonic and revolutionary, as they may now make such an assertion as to the Independent Grand ▭ of Canada.

Until it be proved—which has not been, and cannot be—that the Constitution and Charges of Edwin transmitted to us some "ancient landmarks" recognizing Grand ▭ in their present manner of formation, and

recognizing also the powers now claimed by the Grand ▭ of England and its supporters, as well established portions of legitimate ancient Masonic law and right, it is worse than idle to maintain, in the face of the Masonic usage and precedent of the last one hundred and forty years, that a competent body of regular ▭ existing in a State or Territory where there is no Independent Grand ▭, have not the right to form one. *If they have not, it is more than doubtful whether there is a legitimate Grand ▭ on the continent of North America.*

I have thus far treated this important subject as Masonic history, principle and usage bear upon it; and I most sincerely regret that it was not placed upon this *sole* ground from the beginning. Broadly sustainable as it is here, it needed no other argument to constitute an additional support. Still, there are other facts connected with the formation of the Independent Grand ▭ of Canada, which can not be forgotten, and ought not to be forgotten in considering the subject.

The Masons of Canada were, to a large extent, men whose birth-places were abroad. Their ▭ existed by power derived from abroad. The sympathies of their members were largely with their mother-country across the ocean, and this natural and honorable feeling was all-powerful with them to prevent any rashness or disrespect towards those foreign Masonic jurisdictions to which they acknowledged allegiance. Knowing and feeling the inconveniences of their position, the neglect of their wants and the denial of their just rights, they submitted to years of humble complaint, and of brotherly solicitation, of manly petitioning, and of mild remonstrance—and they submitted in vain. No kind response, no appreciation of self-evident wrongs, breathed its gentle breath across the broad Atlantic. They were compelled, at last, unwillingly, to realize that all foreign hope was ended, and that the future of their Masonic happiness must depend upon themselves. Thus situated, forty-one ▭ holding warrants of constitution under the authority of the Grand ▭ of England, Ireland, and Scotland, after circulating notice of their intention for several months, assembled at Hamilton, on the 10th day of October, 1855, severed all foreign connection, and constituted for themselves a Grand ▭ of Canada.

The wrongs and grievences to which I refer, have been sometimes denied, and the representations of these forty-one ▭ have been caviled at by enmity, and hawked at by ignorance; but an earlier justification has already come than the new Grand ▭ could have anticipated, and its own truth is sustained even from the mouths of its opponents. On the 23d day of October last, the body of Canadian Masons which styles itself "The Provincial Grand ▭ of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada West, under the United Grand ▭ of England,"—*which body still acknowledges and adheres to its foreign allegiance*—memorialized the Grand ▭ of England upon its position, and in that memorial has set forth substantially the existence of the same grievances which had been previously set forth, and which, having been treated with scorn and contempt in the quarter to which they were addressed, had *forced* the forty-one ▭ to their independent action of October 10th, 1856.

Had the forty-one ▭ of Canada postponed their action and continued to bear oppression longer, subsequent events have shown that "scorpions" were doomed to succeed the "whips," and while they remained within the portal of foreign jurisdiction, they must leave all hope upon the outside. At the quarterly Communication of the Grand ▭ of England, on the 4th of June, 1856, when a petition from Canada West was alluded to by a member upon the floor, which petition had been presented to the Grand Master, and notice had been given of a motion by Brother Portal, "for granting privileges to the Grand ▭ of Canada West," the Grand Master announced *even before the motion was brought forward*, that he should "refuse putting it from the chair." He went on to remark that "the *Grand* ▭ had nothing to do with the petition," and added, "that he was perfectly justified in ignoring it." He refused, also, to read a part of the petition.

Upon this practice the Grand ▭ of England is a myth, having no substantial entity whatever; or, if it has any appreciable existence, it is but

as the *shadow* of the Most Worshipful Earl of Zetland. I know not how these occurrences may strike the minds of the brethren of this Grand ▭, but I am compelled to admit that no intellectual chemistry can find anything in my own conceptions which has the least affinity for them. A Grand Master quite as many years as any other living brother on this side the Atlantic, and, so far as I know, on the other, I have a right to believe that the Masonic world will give me credit for having no disposition to restrict the legitimate prerogatives of that exalted station, but when the brother thus situated and thus responsible to the Masonic world at large, assumes an entire *personal* control over petitions, gratuitously refuses to put motions growing naturally out of them, even before they are offered, and withholds from his Grand ▭ the contents of papers in which that body is interested, I can see only in those acts, simple, unmitigated, unalloyed despotism. It is receding to the age of darkness and of iron. Masonry is too intelligent and enlightened to sanction it. If the Grand ▭ of England yields to it, she has arrived at the hour when the rising Sun of her East should be transferred to represent the setting Sun of her West, and in that changed position it will most appropriately emblematize her sinking Masonic glory.

I am not ready to say—and I, by no means, intend to say—that neglect and oppression by a Grand ▭ of her Subordinates will, in all, or in a majority of cases, justify revolutionary measures. I design always to distinguish between that which is justifiably right and that which is obviously wrong. And I think that, in most cases which arise, there is usually a well marked line of distinction, which a well-informed and dispassionate man will experience no great difficulty in finding. I think, for instance, that I can perceive a very plain difference in the relations between a Grand ▭ and its Subordinates existing in a single State or Territory, and a Grand ▭ and its Subordinates existing in different countries, thousands of miles apart, and separated by an ocean. I think I can appreciate the existence of a very clear distinction between the difficulties of a few years ago, with the Grand ▭ of New York and a portion of her Subordinate ▭ and of those existing in 1855, between the Grand ▭ of England and her Subordinate ▭ in Canada. In the first case the disaffected ▭ in the outset, formed a part of the Grand ▭ of New York. They were represented upon its floor, with as full privileges, as to being heard, as their associates; and if injured, with the undoubted right of renewing the consideration of the subject matters of difference from time to time, and of laboring to bring the majority to their views, and of convincing them by fact and argument, if they could. Thus situated, they preferred secession and forming a new Grand ▭ for themselves. This was *revolutionary* beyond doubt; and so has the Masonic world at large almost unanimously decided. But there is no fair parallel to this state of things in the case of Canada. The Subordinate ▭ of Canada had no representation in the Grand ▭ of England. They were in a state of complete and absolute dependence and pupilage. They could only appear at the door of that Grand ▭ as humble suppliants for their rights, by written petition, without a single voice of their own upon its tesselated pavement to sustain and enforce their supplications. Their prayers of years were unheeded, their solicitations scorned, their injuries unredressed, and even their money taken from them without acknowledgment or notice. Are these cases analogous? It would be the most palpable and wicked mendacity to say so. Wrongs, such as I have named, could not be borne forever. They left the Canadian ▭ but a single alternative—either to give up Masonry wholly and entirely, or to raise an independent Masonic standard. The impassable point had been reached, the last drop of the cup of forbearance had been drained, and—unwilling to be *forced* from the privileges and enjoyments of the Order—they made the selection of honorable independence, and appealed to the justice of a world-wide Masonry for sanction and brotherhood. This, in my judgment, was *not* revolution, but the exercise of a proper, necessary and just *right*, and the Masonic world will so decide, unless it is prepared to hold, that there is not, *in any case whatever*, a remedy for Masonic *oppression*.

Upon both grounds, then, my brethren, as I view this subject:—of the *inherent* right of every State, Territory, or country, to establish a Grand

▭ of its own, and the right of a country holding its Masonry from a foreign source, to make a severance for unmitigated oppression—I maintain that the independent Grand ▭ of Canada, established at Hamilton on the 10th day of October, 1855, is legitimately and Masonically established, and is entitled, justly and of right, to the sanction, countenance and support, of all the Grand ▭ in the world.

Within a few days after the Masonic action of the forty-one ▭ at Hamilton, the then Grand Master of the Grand ▭ of New York seems, evidently, to have become alarmed. Before the infant Grand ▭ of Canada was fairly invested with its swaddling clothes, he appears perfectly prepared to strangle it in its cradle. Seven days only were suffered to pass before he stigmatized as good men and worthy Masons as the world can elsewhere boast of, as being guilty of Masonic "rebellion," and then sounded the old atabal alarm of "rebellion" at home. Without taking the trouble to distinguish between Canadian and New York "rebellion," he seized upon the matter *a petitio principii*, assimilated the two unlike cases by a single dash of the pen, raised from their quiet graves the long-laid skeletons of "heresy and schism," looked anxiously across the Atlantic to the long withheld patronizing smile which had a few years past almost emblazoned the waves of old ocean in its passage from London to New York, and concluded that it would be the "height of ingratitude" to England to do anything less than proscribe the new and independent Grand ▭ of Canada. The same panic alarm seized his Committee of Foreign Correspondence in June following. Leo the Tenth and the Cardinals of the Vatican could hardly have been more alarmed at the appearance of the new dogmas of Luther. The shadows of "heresy and schism" triumphed, and glorious New York, at the hands of her strong and great men, chose to confine her Masonic sympathies to her own side of the St. Lawrence.

Not thus did the Masonry of the Empire State reason when she formed her own independent Grand ▭. She did not then rely upon the "implied or express consent of England," nor seek the consent of any Provincial Grand ▭ which had chartered local ▭ in her territory; nor did she then understand that *rebellion* and *independence* were synonymous terms. She then felt the ability to stand up and walk in her own legitimate inherent strength; she threw the crutches of English dependence in England's face and marched on triumphantly to her own high and glorious Masonic destiny. When I assert this I do it upon the authority contended for by the legitimate Grand ▭ of New York, which has always claimed that "in 1785 it adopted a new Constitution, and thereby *threw off all allegiance* to the parent body." Unless this be true, I see no escape from the position contended for by the revolutionary Grand ▭ of that State, which I understand to hold, "that down to 1849, the Grand ▭ of New York continued to be *Provincial* to the Grand ▭ of England."

Before the declared independence of the Grand ▭ of New York, by the alleged action of 1785, that Grand Body had, for several years, been independent *de facto*. Her Provincial Charter required her to make return of her Proceedings to the Grand ▭ of England, and allow appeals to be taken thereto. But from and after September, 1777, she made no returns and suffered no appeals to be taken; styled herself the Grand ▭ of New York and not the Provincial Grand ▭, and claimed the independent title of *Most* Worshipful, instead of *Right* Worshipful, the latter being the title of all Provincial Grand ▭. For the term of about eight years, then, she acted independently, without declaring herself so, and her action, during that interregnum between dependence and undeclared independence, she has always claimed to have been correct and legitimate, and the Masonic world has not denied it. Upon principle, however, it would be difficult to find anything as irregular as all this in any of the acts and doings of the forty-one ▭ of Canada.

Missouri, in refusing to acknowledge the independent Grand ▭ of Canada, offers no argument, but the first impressions of her Grand Master, acquiesced in, apparently *pro forma*, by a committee. The decision of Virginia I only know by a statement in the Freemason's Magazine, of

Boston. I have not yet seen her Proceedings; but if the Grand ▭ of that venerable old State is perfectly satisfied with the facts and argument on which her own independence was established, it is not easy to understand her want of appreciation of those which exist as to the independent Grand ▭ of Canada.

I have read the report of the committee on this subject, adopted by the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts—and considering the names it bears, and the history of the formation of the Grand ▭ of that ancient Commonwealth, I have been more than surprised at some of its positions.

The report begins with the expression of a great deal of sympathy, and expresses the opinion that an independent organization is essential to the effective and proper working of the Order, in the opinion of the entire Craft of Canada; but professes to find "well-tried principles" in the way of recognition, and then states the question at issue to be, "whether it is consistent with the recognized laws or customs of Freemasonry, for any ▭ under a particular jurisdiction to secede from the parent body without its consent—and to form, of their *own* authority, a new body, having an independent existence and independent powers."

Although the question might have been stated with greater fairness, I do not object to it as thus expressed. And I feel no difficulty in saying, that if the *consistency* of *such* action is denied, *Massachusetts herself has no legitimate Grand* ▭ *whatever*. She asked no *consent* to "secede" from the "parent body," by either of her Provincial Grand ▭. Both on the 2d day of January, 1783—when the old Massachusetts Grand ▭ assembled, after an entire suspension of eight years—and in August, 1787, when her St. John's Grand ▭ met after a suspension of more than twelve years, we find no such idea dreamed of, so far as she has seen fit to disclose her history to the Masonic world. The Grand Master of one of her Grand ▭, laid in his shroud of glory under the "King's Chapel," and the other also had passed away from earth. An assumed "elective supremacy," in the one case, and a silently assumed *right* to act, in the other, were all that were thought necessary in those "good days of old." Nor was more thought needful when the Massachusetts and St. John's Grand ▭ united in 1792, and formed the present Grand ▭ of Massachusetts.

If all this action was not *secession*, by what name is it to be described? Who ever *heard*, among it all, that the "*consent*" of the "parent body" was asked, and who so ignorant as not to *know*, that upon *self-assumed* authority, Massachusetts inaugurated a "new body" with an "*independent* existence *and independent* powers." This being true, the Committee of Massachusetts must either disavow themselves, or admit that *independent* action is to be enjoyed by them only in common with others.

I quote another paragraph from the report of the Massachusetts committee: "Each Grand ▭ in the United States rules and governs, without interference, from any other, all ▭ within the civil jurisdiction of the State in which she is situated, hold the Territories as common ground, wherein each Grand ▭ is free to charter ▭ at pleasure, until *each Territory, by being regularly admitted to the Union as a State*, acquires the right to form a Grand ▭ for itself. Your committee are aware that this has sometimes been done before admission *as a State;* but although it may be alleged in excuse that Territories are States in process of formation, we still think the practice illegal, and *not to be justified in any case*, the only safe rule, in our opinion, being that laid down."

The first portion of this opinion admits of no controversy: no one denies its truth or correctness. The second portion has no truth to sustain it, and, if Massachusetts holds to it, she stands *alone*. I would be highly thankful to know, *when, where, and by whom* any such rule as to the Grand ▭ of the *Territories* was established, and *what* Grand ▭ has either assented to or acquiesced in it. For myself I know of none. If such Grand ▭ are of doubtful validity, I cannot withhold the question, whether my own native and loved State is not now in full Masonic communion with Minnesota, Oregon and Kansas? and if she is *not*, why she does not inform her sister Grand ▭ that her Masonic compasses do not embrace them in their circle of Masonic brotherhood.

The committee of the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts find no difficulty in

deciding that all the reasons given by the formers of the Grand ▭ of Canada, make out only a case of "simple *inconvenience;*" hold the action they have taken, to be "rebellious;" assert that "in Masonry there can be no long continued oppression," that "there can be no temptation to tyranny, for nothing is to be gained by it," and that, "within certain bounds, the will of the majority is absolute." They then most fraternally call the Grand ▭ of England "our venerable mother," protest against the newly formed Grand ▭ of Canada by resolution, and forbid all Masonic communication with it or with any ▭ or individual having any *connection* therewith.

It is doubtless always "inconvenient" for Masonry to be governed by a power three thousand miles off and across an ocean. The Grand ▭ of Massachusetts itself found it so at the close of the Revolutionary war, and remedied the "inconvenience" *by its own act.* Canada, even more inconveniently situated than Massachusetts, has simply done an act of the same kind. Is it possible, in the world's or in heaven's high chancery, to hold one to be loyal and the other treasonable? That "will of the majority" which "within certain bounds is absolute," and which the Massachusetts committee see so clearly to be a protection against "oppression and tyranny," has been prostrated upon the floor of the Grand ▭ of England by the despotic will of the present Grand Master, and has, at this moment, as every well-informed Mason knows, only a mythical existence, at least within that Grand ▭ of "our venerable mother."

In the *full* meaning of the second resolution passed by the Grand ▭ of Massachusetts, at the recommendation of its committee, a very large range is taken. Carried out to its results, as it obviously reads, some seven or eight State Grand ▭, all their Subordinates, and all the members of each, are literally excommunicated from association with that Grand body—inasmuch as that number of Grand ▭ have agreed that they *will* have connection with this same Grand ▭ of Canada. If this was actually intended, it seems to me to open a fountain of bitter waters, illy adapted to promote the growth of Charity and Brotherly Love.

I have examined, with some care, the communications of some Masonic writers on this highly interesting subject, with a view of learning all that was accessible; and I am obliged to express my surprise at what has appeared in relation to it in some of our leading Masonic publications. It has been contended in one quarter, that the recognition of the independent Grand ▭ of Canada by the Grand ▭ of Ireland is of no great importance, *because she has only about fifteen* ▭ *in Canada, and did not burden them with charges so harshly as the Grand* ▭ *of England did the* ▭ *holding warrants under her.* This is a singular argument to be urged, and very naturally leads to the inquiry, why, if Ireland's *acknowledgment* is of no importance, Scotland's *refusal* is of even as much weight, when it is known that *she* had a far *less* number of ▭ in the Province under her care. If in a Territory free and open for the admission of warranted ▭ by different foreign Grand ▭, the question of right or wrong is to be settled by the greater or lesser number of ▭ introduced by each, then we have introduced a new Masonic rule of practice, the existence of which is yet unknown to our Institutions, and equally unknown to the intellectual tribunal of Masonic equity and justice.

And it has been contended too, strange as it may seem, that since the separation of Canada from France, the three Grand ▭ of Great Britain and Ireland, have "held and improved" that Province, (to use the language of the writer,) as a "*coparcenary*, or a partnership in inheritance, with a *joint* right of succession"—as "one heir, holding the premises as an estate in common." With such a view of her position, Canada might well complain that this interesting Masonic *partnership* of the rose, the harp, and the thistle, did not transact its business under some regular partnership title, and issue its ▭ warrants in the name of the firm. It might also have been important to inquire, in what respective individual propositions these *joint partners of Canadian Masonic rights and privileges* owned the Masonic stock of such a glorious inheritance, and not have left so important a matter wholly to inference. The author of the argument to which I am addressing myself, brings down his statistics no further than the year

1848, at which time, according to his information, said stock consisted of ninety-seven shares, of which England possessed eighty, Ireland fifteen, and Scotland two.

Upon the legal theory suggested, the writer might, with propriety, have insisted that England and Scotland should have enjoined Ireland from interfering with their *partnership* rights by acknowledging Canadian Masonic independence.

A *partnership* where each separate partner acts independent of the firm, transacts his part of the business independent of his associates, carries it on in his own name and on his own responsibility, and has a "joint undivided interest" and a "right of survivorship" besides, in so large a property as the Masonic territory of Canada, *without knowing it or suspecting it himself*, is an invention which leaves steam and telegraphs in the far distance, and will only be equalled by the discovery of a practically successful rudder to the balloon.

It is among my strongest wishes personally to see the Masonry of this continent firmly established on its own unsculptured Doric column—as strong in its moral as are the pyramids in their physical strength. Every lawful Masonic act which, to a fair and unbiassed judgment, has a tendency in that direction, has always had and always will have my warmest encouragement and firmest support. I sincerely and solemnly believe the movement in Canada to have been one of that kind, and, in common with the members of this Grand ▭, I have felt bound to give it the best support in my power. I have no doubt of its eventual success, and that such success is most highly important both to the Masonry of Canada and of the United States. To ourselves, my brethren, who are the immediate neighbors of Canada, and who know personally many of the officers and members of the independent Grand ▭ and of the ▭ which recognize its organization, it is wholly idle to talk about Masonic "rebellion." We know them to be legitimate and true Masons, and worthy of the name: law abiding men; men whom we esteem for their manliness and virtues; men with whom it is our pleasure and our pride to exchange the right hand of fellowship, and from an association with whom no bull of excommunication—come it whence it may—will ever be able to separate us. The Masonic course of their predecessors, more than forty years ago, and when the unfortunate cloud of war hung over our respective countries, is not unfamiliar to me. Some of its unpublished annals have survived, and are in my own possession, preserved and transmitted to me by that most worthy Grand Master who preceded me in the oriental chair. Those annals show the same honorable, exalted and brotherly spirit which characterizes our Canadian brethren of the present hour. In sustaining such men and their lawful Masonic acts we sustain the Order in its purity and strengthen the foundation on which rests the Doric column of American Freemasonry.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,

OF MINNESOTA,

AT ITS SEVENTH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, IN THE CITY OF ST. PAUL, COMMENCING OCTOBER 26TH, A.·. L.·. 5858.

FIRST DAY.

The following Grand Officers being present, to wit:

M.·. W.·. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. D. B. LOOMIS, Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. FRANK MANTOR, Senior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. O. T. HAYES, as Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. EMANUEL CASE, Grand Treasurer.
R.·. W.·. GEO. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.
W.·. SAMUEL E. ADAMS, Grand Marshal.
W.·. C. G. WYKOFF, Grand Sword Bearer.
W.·. L. BRANSON, as Senior Grand Deacon.
W.·. THOS. RUSSELL, as Junior Grand Deacon.
W.·. J. C. WHIPPLE, Grand Pursuivant.
W.·. Wm. H. WOLFF, Senior Grand Steward.
Bro. A. RICHARDSON, Grand Treasurer.

And the following Past Grand Officers, to wit:

M.·. W.·. A. E. AMES, Past Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. D. F. BRAWLEY, Past Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. WM. H. MOWER, Past Deputy Grand Master.

At 12 o'clock, M., a Master Mason's ▭ was opened in ample form by the M.·. W.·. Grand Master, preparatory to opening the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota.

Prayer was offered by the M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. A. E. Ames.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master appointed R.·. W.·. Bro. Wm. H. Mower, and Bro. O. T. Hayes, a committee to assist the Grand Secretary in preparing a report of the number of Representatives present from the Subordinate ▭, and thereupon the ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, the M.·. W.·. Grand Master presiding.

The Grand Secretary, from the Committee on Credentials, reported the following Representatives from Subordinate ▭:

St. John's ▭, No. 1—L. E. Thompson, Worthy Master.
Cataract ▭, No. 2—H. Reynolds, Worthy Master.
R. S. Alden, proxy for Senior Warden.
St. Paul ▭, No. 3—N. W. Kittson, Worthy Master.
G. W. Merrill, Senior Warden.
Hennepin ▭, No. 4—A. E. Ames, Worthy Master.
Ancient Landmark ▭, No. 5—C. W. Carpenter, Worthy Master.
A. T. Chamblin, Senior Warden.
R. C. Wiley, Junior Warden.
I. P. Wright, Past Master.
Shakopee ▭, No. 6—J. M. Kerlinger, Worthy Master.
Dakota ▭, No. 7—John Rhodes, proxy for ▭.
O. T. Hayes, Past Master.
Red Wing ▭, No. 8—John H. Brand, Senior Warden.
Faribault ▭, No. 9—J. C. Whipple, Worthy Master.
L. K. Flanders, Senior Warden.
Pacific ▭, No. 10—W. H. Wolff, Worthy Master.
N. P. Langford, Senior Warden.
R. F. Combs, Junior Warden.
Mantorville ▭, No. 11—A. J. Edgerton, Senior Warden.
Mankato ▭, No. 12—Lewis Branson, Senior Warden.
Henderson ▭, No. 13—Thos. Russell, Senior Warden.
Monticello ▭, No. 16—Sam. E. Adams, Worthy Master.
Hokah ▭, No. 17—C. G. Wykoff, Senior Warden.
Minneapolis ▭, No. 19—Jos. Dean, Worthy Master.
Caledonia ▭, No. 20—Wm. F. Dunbar, proxy for ▭.
Rochester ▭, No. 21—C. C. Jones, Senior Warden.
Pleasant Grove ▭, No. 22—Geo. P. Budlong, Worthy Master.

The Representatives from a Constitutional number of ▭ being present, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, A. T. C. Pierson, opened the Grand ▭ in ample form for the transaction of business, and prayer was offered by the R.·. W.·. Grand Chaplain, Rev. John Penman.

Printed Proceedings of the last Grand Annual Communication being in the hands of the members, the reading thereof was, on motion, dispensed with.

On motion of Bro. A. T. Chamblin, it was

"*Resolved*, That all Master Masons in good and regular standing, be invited to take seats in this Grand ▭ during its session."

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master announced the appointment of the following Standing Committees:

On Returns of ▭—Bros. Wm. H. Mower, A. T. Chamblin and Thos. Russell.

On Work of ▭ U.·. D.·.—Bros. Henry Reynolds, C. G. Wykoff and Jos. Dean.

On Examination of Secretary and Treasurer's Books—Bros. D. B. Loomis, R. C. Wiley and C. C. Jones.

On Visiting Brethren—Bros. A. E. Ames and I. P. Wright.

On Appeals and Grievances—Bros. L. E. Thompson, A. J. Edgerton, A. T. Chamblin, Geo. P. Budlong and O. T. Hayes.

On Unfinished Business—Bros. O. T. Hayes, Wm. H. Wolff and N. W. Kittson.

On Ancient Landmarks—Bros. Wm. H. Mower, Jno. C. Whipple and G. W. Merrill.

The M.·. W.·. B. F. Smith, Past Grand Master of the Grand ▭ of Ohio, being announced, was received with the honors due to his rank, and invited to a seat in the East.

The M.·. W.·. Wm. H. Stevens, Past Grand Master of the Grand ▭ of Mississippi, being announced, was received with the customary honors, and invited to a seat in the East.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master, A. T. C. Pierson, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand ▭ :

Another period fixed by our regulations for the meeting of the Grand ▭, has arrived, and we are permitted again to assemble, undiminished in numbers. Surely we have abundant cause for congratulation ; all who participated in the organization of this Grand ▭ six years ago, and who have been members thereof since, are alive: not one officer, and but nine or ten members of the Subordinate ▭ have died since our formation, and we have twenty-four chartered ▭ on our roll and four under dispensation : a remarkable fact, and one which, were there no other cause, should warm our hearts to each other, and draw closer if possible the cords of Brotherly Love.

These peculiar circumstances cannot surround us much longer. The arch destroyer may soon invade our circle. How long before we shall be called upon to assemble around, and drop the sympathetic tear into the grave of one of our number? Who will be the first called?—are questions that are daily becoming of vast moment to each of us.

It behoves us, then, brethren, while surrounding the Altar of Masonry, at the commencement of this Communication, to offer our adorations to the Great I AM for this peculiar mark of His favor ; and to implore His divine aid and protection through the remaining portion of our journey of life.*

The year past has been an unusually advantageous one to Freemasonry. Revulsions in the financial affairs of the country have kept many from knocking at our doors ; our ▭ have not been crowded with work ; more time has been had to devote to studying the Constitutions and general regulations of Masonry, and the sublime teachings of our mystical association.

The conferring of Degrees is becoming, as it should be, entirely a secondary consideration. Masonry is engaging the attention of men, as a science worthy of investigation ; it is no longer regarded as a mere system of *form* and *ceremony ;* its adaptation to the wants of man, and its usefulness in society, are being appreciated more than ever before.

The year 1858 will be long remembered and regarded as an era in Masonry. It will be hereafter known as the year of Reconciliation and Union. I have the pleasure to announce to you from this Grand East, that a reconciliation and union have been effected in New York and in Canada. The published Proceedings of Grand ▭, and reports of Committees on Foreign Correspondence since 1849, have contained allusions to "New York difficulties;"—such allusions can no longer be had ; the day for them is past—we hope forever. I had the pleasure of being pres-

*The M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. here called up the Grand ▭ and the Throne of Grace was addressed by the G.·. C.·. Bro. Penman, after which, the M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. concluded his address. G.·. S.·.

ent in the Grand ▭ of New York, when the R.·. W.·. Robt. Macoy announced that the Articles of Agreement had been signed. Soon thereafter was seen the M.·. W.·. John D. Willard, P.·. G.·. M.·., entering the Grand ▭, accompanied by a number of brethren, who in earlier years had surrounded the same altar, but who had been estranged since 1849; brethren whose hair had grown grey in Masonic service, whose names had been favorably known throughout the length and breadth of the land. Could it be wondered at that some of the younger brethren, in their enthusiastic exultation, should propose three cheers! or that the cheers were participated in by those whose hair was white with age—or that the cheers were extended to three times three? It was a proud moment for Masonry,—not only of New York, but of the world,—and one that can never be effaced from the remembrance of those who were present. It presented another, among the thousands of instances, that there exists among true Masons a fraternal feeling which cannot be extinguished; which, though covered up for a time by the vicissitudes of life, will burst forth and glow with renewed fervor.

It will be remembered that in October, 1855, forty-one of the ▱ in Canada, working under authority of European Grand ▱, held a Convention and organized a Grand ▭ of Canada, which was recognized by most of the Grand ▱ of the United States. In September, 1857, the remaining ▱ in Canada, (39,) formed an Independent Grand ▭, making two Grand ▱ in the same Territory. At our last Communication we adopted a resolution recognizing but one Grand ▭, and that, the one first formed. July 14th of this year, the two united, and there is now but one Grand ▭ in Canada.

Peace and harmony now reign triumphant in every Grand ▭ jurisdiction in North America, with two exceptions. In Louisiana there are three French ▱ which refuse obedience to the Grand ▭ of that State, and which have been expelled. Measures are in train that will probably result in their dissolution at the next meeting of that Grand ▭. In New York there are two German ▱, Pythagoras No. 1, and Franklin No. 2, working under authority of the Grand ▭ of Hamburg, with which no intercourse is had by regular Masons; and there is also a small body of men styling themselves the "St. John's Grand ▭," who have been expelled by the Grand ▭. Our ▱ will receive no visitors from either of those States, except such as acknowledge the Grand ▱ of which R.·. W.·. Bros. Samuel G. Risk, and James M. Austin, M. D., are respectively the Grand Secretaries.

I have visited most of the ▱ since the last Annual Communication. I have found nothing to complain of, but much to commend. Records are well kept, in Masonic form and correct language; attendance upon the Communications of the ▱ appear to have been more general than heretofore, and more interest is manifested by the brethren to become proficient in the practice of our mystic rites, and conversant with the sublime teachings of Masonry. In a large majority of the ▱, a uniformity of ceremony and language in opening and closing the ▭ is had, and but little difference of language is used in the conferring of Degrees.

At the last Annual Communication, six charters were granted for new ▱; they have all been consecrated and the officers installed by myself, or Past Masters deputized for that purpose. The good already done by those ▱ is a proof of the wisdom of your action.

I renewed the Dispensations without fee to the brethren at Chatfield and Albert Lea. The brethren at the former place have sent up their Dispensation, Records, and Returns, and desire to be chartered under the name of Meridian ▭. I was with them two days in September last, examining their records, &c., and I can cheerfully say that their work will compare favorably with that of many of the older ▱.

On account of the unprecedented rains in this country, I was unable to reach Albert Lea, and am therefore not advised as to the mode of work at that place.

Two new Dispensations have been issued during the past year, to hold ▱, one at Winnebago City, in Faribault County, named Blue Earth Valley ▭; the other at Clear Water, in Stearns County, neither of which

have been visited by me. The latter Dispensation was issued but a month since, and the same reasons existed for not visiting the former as in the case of Albert Lea. M.·. W.·. B. F. Smith, P.·. G.·. M.·. of Ohio, who presented the application, informs me that the brethren are actuated by the right spirit; are doing good Masonic work, and will apply for a charter at this Communication.

In times of high political excitement, consequent upon change of government such as we have passed through, discord is apt to be engendered among brethren. I am happy to announce but one instance of that kind has come to my knowledge in all our ⊟. Masonry connects herself with no form of political government and opposes none. Her mission is "Peace and good will to men." Whenever, unfortunately, such differences arise, the second sober thought should induce brethren to remember that they are Masons, and to amicably arrange their difficulties without bringing them into the □.

Nothing is more unpleasant or painful to a Grand Master in visiting ⊟, than to find a want of harmony among the brethren, or to be called upon to decide upon differences among them; his business when visiting is to inspect the work, to examine the records and see that they are properly kept, to see that the usages and customs of the Fraternity are not violated; that no innovations are practiced; that the Ancient Landmarks are not removed; to instruct, encourage and counsel the brethren, and direct their workings. When I inform you, brethren, that the instance alluded to is the only one that has come to my knowledge of want of harmony, in a State so large as ours and containing so many ⊟, it need cause no surprise—because, if brethren remember that they are Masons, and call to mind the ties and laws of Masonry, other state of things cannot be.

Examining the By-Laws of the Subordinate ⊟, my attention has been drawn to two matters that demand the action of this Grand □.

1. *Residence of Applicants.*

No □ should be allowed to receive an application for initiation unless the applicant had resided in our State one year, and in the jurisdiction of the □ at least half that time, except in case of an officer or soldier in the United States Army.

Two objects are gained in this—

1st. Time is had to become acquainted with applicants' characteristics; and,

2d. It may prevent our interfering with other jurisdictions by using their material, and thus avoid one fruitful cause of difficulty with our neighbors. This latter thought is suggested by the fact that this jurisdiction has been invaded in another branch of the Order. I will add, however, in that case, the proper authority was informed by me of the occurrence, and he promptly reprimanded the parties, and assured me the like should not occur again. As yet no case has occurred in this jurisdiction, of receiving applicants from neighboring States, but as our ⊟ are rapidly increasing, warned by difficulties that have arisen in older jurisdictions, we should take measures to prevent the occurrence here.

2. *As to time intervening between rejection and re-application.*

Experience has proved that where an applicant for our mysteries has been rejected, and means were taken to remove the objection, or to have the candidate admitted despite the objection, the initiate himself has in every instance proved that it would have been better had he been kept out. Rejections, undoubtedly, sometimes take place of those who would make good Masons; but it is better that hundreds of good men be rejected, than one bad one admitted, particularly if he is admitted by getting round a "black-ball."

Our regulations are silent as to the time that should intervene between a rejection and the renewal of the petition for initiation. I would respectfully recommend this subject to your consideration.

At our last Annual Communication, a resolution was adopted approving the proposition of the Grand □ of Maine, with reference to a meeting of representatives in Chicago, in September, 1859, to attempt the formation of a General Grand □ of the United States; and further, that this Grand □ "would at the proper time select its representation." As

the meeting will be held before our next Annual Communication, the representation must be elected at this.

As the previous action of Grand ▭ upon the subject of a General Grand ▭ was had before our Grand ▭ came into existence, I have from such records as my library affords, made, and herewith present, the following compilation:

The first proposition, or rather the germ of this matter, is found in the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Pennsylvania, who at an emergent meeting in January, 1780, nominated or proposed General Washington as G.·. G.·. M.·. of Masons.

[Brother John Dove, G.·. S.·. of Virginia, has in his possession a silver medal, struck in commemoration thereof, which he showed to me. On one side is a face of Washington, surrounded by the inscription, "G. Washington, President, 1797." On the reverse is a Masonic carpet and the inscription, "*Amor, Honor, et Justicia*, G. W. G. G. M."]

No general action appears to have been had upon the matter. The Grand ▭ of Georgia, in 1790, renewed the proposal; but after several ineffectual efforts to obtain a favorable response, the matter was dropped. The Grand ▭ of South Carolina revived the subject in 1799, and sent her Proceedings to all the Grand ▭, inviting their concurrence. In 1803, it was again mooted, but deemed impracticable, by the Grand ▭ of Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and also by Georgia. These Grand ▭, however, recommended a convention of delegates from the several Grand ▭, "for the purpose of forming a more intimate union, and establishing a regular and permanent intercourse" between them; but no convention was held.

The proposition was again renewed in 1809, by the Grand ▭ of Pennsylvania, with the same result—no general action was had. March 9th, 1822, there appeared in the National Intelligencer the following:

"MASONIC NOTICE.—Those members of Congress who belong to the Masonic Fraternity, and those visitors of the city who are or have been members of any State Grand ▭, are respectfully invited to attend a meeting in the Senate Chamber this evening, at 7 o'clock, to take into consideration matters of general interest to the Masonic Institution."

Pursuant to that notice there assembled a large number of the brethren. Thos. Ross, of Ohio, was appointed chairman, and Wm. Darlington, of Pennsylvania, Secretary.

A resolution was adopted, offered by M.·. W.·. Henry Clay, deeming it expedient, and for the general interests of the Order, to constitute a General Grand ▭ of the United States. A committee of correspondence was appointed, consisting of M.·. W.·. John Marshall, of Virginia, M.·. W.·. Henry Clay, of Kentuckey, M.·. W.·. Wm. Winder, of Maryland, Wm. S. Cardell, of New York, M.·. W.·. Joel Abbott, of Georgia, John Holmes, of Maine, Henry Baldwin, of Pennsylvania, John H. Eaton, of Tennessee, M.·. W.·. Wm. H. Seaton, of Washington, M.·. W.·. H. C. Burton, of North Carolina, M.·. W.·. Christopher Rankin, of Mississippi, and M.·. W.·. Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris, of Massachusetts.

The action had by the Grand ▭ was generally adverse to the project, particularly Kentucky, Missouri and Pennsylvania. Alabama laid the subject on the table. The Grand ▭ of Ohio, (Jan., 1823,) "deemed the establishment of a General Grand ▭ inexpedient, but recommended a Grand Convocation of Grand ▭," for the purpose of establishing a uniformity of work, and recommending such measures for the good of the Craft as they may deem expedient.

The Grand ▭ of the District of Columbia in 1823, adopted resolutions favoring the establishment of a General Grand ▭, and transmitted them with an address to the several jurisdictions.

The only action with reference to this proposition was by the Grand ▭ of Ohio, who by a vote of ayes 50, and noes 40, resolved that "she disapproves of the object of said resolutions and address."

The matter was dropped for fifteen years. In 1839, the following resolution was adopted by the Grand ▭ of Alabama: "Resolved, That all Grand ▭ in correspondence with the Grand ▭ of Alabama, be requested to elect one delegate to meet in General Convention on the first Mon-

day in March, 1842, in the city of Washington, for the purpose of determining upon a uniform mode of work throughout all the ▭ in the United States; and to make other lawful regulations for the interest and security of the Craft."

On the day designated by the above resolution, delegates were in attendance from the Grand ▭ of Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia; several other Grand ▭ had appointed delegates who did not attend.

M.·. W.·. Chas. Gilman, of Maryland, was elected President, and R.·. W.·. John Dove, of Virginia, and Jas. Lawrenson, of District of Columbia, Secretaries.

One of the first questions that came before the Convention was upon the admission of the delegates from Michigan. It was referred to a committee, who reported adversely to the recognition of the Grand ▭ of Michigan, which report was unanimously concurred in by the Convention. That action of the Convention, although acknowledged by the Grand ▭ (Ohio excepted) to be correct, was used by those opposed to a General Grand ▭ as an argument against the organization of such a body. The Convention considered six subjects, coming within the scope of the resolution under which they were appointed:

1. Uniformity of work.
2. The Representative system.
3. Necessity of Grand ▭ certificates.
4. Receiving promissory notes for Degrees conferred.
5. Transaction of Masonic business in ▭ below the Degree of M.·. M.·.
6. Upon the grade of penalty to be inflicted for the non-payment of dues by members of Subordinate ▭.

These were questions, particularly the last three, of great importance to the Craft everywhere. The action taken proved the advantage that could be derived from a Grand Body having authority to speak upon those and kindred matters.

Upon Uniformity of Work, the Convention recommended a Convention of skillful brethren, one or more from each Grand ▭, to be styled Grand Lecturers, to meet together once in three years to compare their lectures and to correct variations. In accordance with the recommendation, delegates from sixteen Grand ▭ met at Baltimore, in May, 1843. Bro. John Dove, of Virginia, was elected chairman. It has been supposed that they agreed upon a system of work; but if they did, it has not been promulgated to the Craft. Each delegate reported upon his return home, that the work *he* had formerly taught, had been adopted with slight variations, except some *new things*. Two Text-Books, differing materially, were issued, each claiming to be *the* work adopted. I have heard a dozen variations of the Lectures, each declared to be such as were agreed upon at Baltimore. What with the introduction of new "Signs," "Due Guards," and "highest pinnacles," &c., &c., more discrepancies existed in the work two years after the Convention than did two years previously. A new system is a paying institution—but I am digressing.

The Convention proposed a Grand Masonic Convention to meet triennially, and a set of (eight) rules for the government thereof, to go into effect when thirteen Grand ▭ approved of them, and adjourned to meet at Winchester, Virginia, in 1846. That meeting did not take place; the Grand ▭ appear to have been satisfied with one Convention to systematize work. The representatives of five Grand ▭ only were in attendance, Virginia, North Carolina, Iowa, Michigan and District of Columbia, and they, after waiting three days, adjourned *sine die*. In the meantime, (in 1845,) the Grand ▭ of Maryland proposed a Convention to meet in Baltimore in 1847, to unite in forming a General Grand ▭. The proposition was favored by the Grand ▭ of Arkansas, Mississippi, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina, Wisconsin and District of Columbia, and opposed by those of South Carolina, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Virginia, Connecticut, and New York.

On September 23, 1847, delegates from the Grand ▭ of Arkansas, Flori-

da, District of Columbia, Georgia, Mississippi, Maryland, and North Carolina, met in Baltimore, and framed a Constitution for a Supreme Grand ▭, which was transmitted to the various jurisdictions. But little attention was paid to it. R.·. W.·. Wm. P. Mellen, of Mississippi, was President, and Jos. Robinson, of Maryland, Secretary of the Convention. In 1849, the Grand ▭ of District of Columbia and Maryland, each issued circulars proposing another Convention, to meet in 1850, to form a General Grand ▭. The G.·. M.·. of Rhode Island framed a Constitution which was adopted by his Grand ▭. But two Grand ▭ appointed delegates, Maine and Connecticut, and no meeting was held.

At the triennial meeting of the General Grand Bodies, in Boston, in 1850, the subject was discussed, but no formal meeting was held; but upon the proposal of the Grand ▭ of Maine, delegates to act upon the subject, from the Grand ▭ of Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, met at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1853. M.·. W.·. N. B. Haswell, of Vermont, was chosen President, and R.·. W.·. John L. Lewis, Jr., of New York, and R.·. W.·. E. G. Storer, of Connecticut, Secretaries. Upon motion, delegates to other Grand Bodies then in session at that place, but not accredited to this, were invited to participate in the doings. Accordingly, delegates from District of Columbia, Kentucky, Illinois, Georgia, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Alabama, Ohio, Mississippi, and Virginia, enrolled their names. A committee reported it inexpedient to form a General Grand ▭ at that time, but recommended a plan under the title of National Confederation for specific objects, as proposed by Finlay M. King to the Grand ▭ of New York. For the further maturing of said plan, it was recommended that a Convention be held in the city of Washington, in 1855.

At the convention held in accordance with that recommendation, delegates were present from the Grand ▭ of Alabama, California, District of Columbia, New York, Maryland, Michigan, and Minnesota. The officers were M.·. W.·. David Clopton, of Alabama, President; M.·. W.·. B. B. French, of District of Columbia, and M.·. W.·. Chas. Gilman, of Maryland, Vice Presidents; R.·. W.·. Finlay M. King, of New York, and M.·. W.·. A. E. Ames, of Minnesota, Secretaries. Two propositions were made, one by R.·. W.·. A. C. Smith, of Michigan, for the organization of a General Grand ▭ with limited powers; the other by R.·. W.·. Finlay M. King, of New York, for National Confederation. The latter was finally unanimously adopted, to go into operation as soon as sixteen Grand ▭ adopted the proposition. It met the fate of all preceding proposals.

The Grand ▭ of Maine, satisfied that a General Grand Body is desirable, untiring in her efforts, apparently hoping against hope, has again called attention to the subject, and proposes a Convention at Chicago next September.

Thus we see, brethren, that this matter has been agitated for seventy-eight years, to wit: in 1780, '90, '99, 1803, '09, '22, '23, '24, '39, '42, '43, '45, '47, '50, '53, '55, and '57. A period of sixty-seven years elapsed, after it was first mooted, before a Convention was held. One question only that was decided then, was declared to be of sufficient importance to the Craft to repay all the expense and toil attending it. I allude to the settlement of the Michigan matter.

Nearly all the Grand ▭ have adopted resolutions, expressive of the opinion that a body with limited and well-defined powers, possessing authority to speak upon matters of general interest to the Craft, and meeting once in three years, would be advantageous to the Masonic Institution; but whilst all thus acknowledge, a majority even can not agree upon the plan, and those that agree upon a plan, differ upon the details.

In all these years, but two plans have been proposed:

1. A General Grand ▭, a Supreme Grand ▭, or a Grand Masonic Convention, to be composed of delegates from Grand ▭, to meet each year, or every second or third year, or as often as circumstances should require, to have general supervision over the work and lectures; decide questions of Masonic Jurisprudence; to settle differences between different Grand ▭; between Grand ▭ and their Subordinates; to grant charters for ▭ in States or Territories where no Grand ▭ existed,

and to be the medium of communication with Grand ▭ in foreign countries.

2. A National Confederation of Grand ▭, which proposed to submit any difficulties that might arise between two or more Grand ▭, or between a Grand ▭ and its Subordinates, if of a revolutionary character, to the decisions of the Grand ▭ parties to the confederacy; the concurrent decision of sixteen of them should be binding upon all.

The second proposition was reviewed so fully and ably by my predecessor in his address on the opening of the Grand ▭ in 1856, that it is unnecessary for me further to allude to it.

The objections to the first proposition appear to be—

1. To the name, General, or Supreme Grand ▭, that it carries with it the idea of State Grand ▭ inferiority.
2. Expense in attending its meetings, circulating its Proceedings, &c.
3. That it would lessen the sovereignty of the Grand ▭, by creating an absolute and supreme head.
4. It would create a great central power that would be looked to by every restless spirit, through which imaginary wrongs might be vindicated, and by whose instrumentality, strife and discord could be easily engendered between the State Grand ▭ and any of its own created ▭.
5. It would be dangerous, because it might abuse the powers intrusted to it.
6. Unnecessary, Inexpedient, Utopian, Innovation, &c., &c.

It is urged by the friends of the measure, that there exists a necessity for such a body to—

1. Systematize the work, and produce uniformity.
2. Settle differences between Grand ▭.
3. It could speak with a potential voice, as no State Grand ▭ could do, to arrest innovations in the body of Masonry, and still the voice of discord.
4. Settle or determine permanently questions of general Masonic law, or jurisprudence.
5. Promote unity by extending Masonic acquaintance.
6. Complete the Masonic Organization, &c.

I have thus laid before you a summary of all the action had upon this important subject, found in the published Proceedings from 1780 until the present time.

I believe that much good will be accomplished by an organization of a general character, nay, that such an organization is demanded from the necessity of the times. There are many questions of a general character which should be permanently settled, as, for instance:

1. *Jurisdiction of Grand* ▭.

Complaints are constantly arising of border ▭ initiating parties residing in another jurisdiction. The chief difficulty in such cases is caused by the fact that such parties could not be made at home. Some measure should be contrived to prevent such action—if not prevented, to punish. *The turning over of the fee does not unmake the objectionable man.*

2. *Operation of suspension for non-payment of dues.*

A suspended Mason should be treated as such everywhere, without reference to the cause of suspension. His own Grand ▭ is the only tribunal where that can be re-examined. Suspension amounts to nothing if he can visit or adjoin a ▭ in another jurisdiction.

3. *A general form for what is termed a Dimit, and general regulations as to how membership should cease.*

4. *Physical requisites of candidates.*

Some Grand ▭ permit parties to be made, no matter what the deformity, "so long as they can do all the work required," others require a "perfect man."

5. *Rights of appeal from the decision of the G.·. M.·.*

6. *General rules as to non-affiliated Masons.*

7. *Jurisdiction of Subordinate* ▭ *over a sojourning brother, a member of a* ▭ *in another jurisdiction.*

8. *As to new tests or requirements of candidates for our mysteries.*

These questions, it is true, have been discussed by Grand Masters and

Committees on Foreign Correspondence, time and again. Grand ▭ have taken action, but their action differs. I regard all these questions (except perhaps the fifth,) as particularly important, and they require to settle them, a body authorized so to do. Now, while peace and harmony reign triumphant in every Grand ▭ in the United States, now is the time to take measures to insure that glorious state of things.

This subject has engaged the attention of so many wise and distinguished Masons for so many years, it would be the height of vanity for me to suppose that I could propose a plan that would meet the views of all the Grand ▭; but I may venture to make a proposition differing somewhat from those heretofore made, and which may serve as a basis; and hence the following:

In order to form a more intimate and perfect union, and insure harmony among the Grand ▭; that questions of Masonic law and jurisprudence may be permanently decided; that other questions of general interest, which have been long agitated by Masons, may be set at rest, and for the general advantage of Masonry, we ordain and establish this Constitution for the Confederated Grand ▭.

ARTICLE I. A confederation of Grand ▭ in the United States, is hereby established, to be styled "A Congress of Free and Accepted Masons."

ART. II. This Congress shall consist of one (or three) representatives from each Grand ▭; representatives to be selected as the Grand ▭, parties to this instrument, may determine.

ART. III. The officers shall be a President, Vice President and Secretary, who shall be elected at each session, the duties of the two former to cease at the close of each session; the Secretary to remain in office for the purpose of conducting correspondence and receiving reports to be presented at the next session.

ART. 4. Meetings shall be held triennially, and at such time and place as may be designated by the General Grand Bodies for their meetings.

ART. V. Special meetings may be had upon the concurrent call of three Grand ▭, parties to the Congress.

ART. VI. The representatives of a majority of the Grand ▭ confederated, shall be necessary to form a quorum.

ART. VII. The Congress shall neither possess or exercise any powers not expressly delegated to it, and shall be subject to the general regulations and usages of Ancient Freemasonry, as practiced by the Grand ▭ of the United States.

ART. VIII. The Congress shall have jurisdiction over all differences that may arise between two Grand ▭ recognizing its authority, and it shall take cognizance of any and all such differences on the written complaint of either of the parties at variance. Its decisions shall be final and binding.

ART. IX. It may take cognizance of all cases of difference mutually referred to it by any Grand ▭ not parties to this Constitution. Provided, said Grand ▭ shall have previously agreed to abide by its decision, and not otherwise.

ART. X. It shall have authority to determine all questions of Masonic law or jurisprudence; and also all questions of a general character, the determination of which would not interfere with the sovereignty of Grand ▭.

ART. XI. It may advise with reference to the work of Craft Masonry, to the end that uniformity may be had in ceremony, and if possible, in language, by the confederate Grand ▭; but shall have no power to order the adoption of any system of work.

ART. XII. The expenses of the delegates shall be borne by the Grand ▭ of which they are the representatives.

ART. XIII. Such other expenses as may be incurred by authority of the Congress, shall be borne by the Grand ▭ parties thereto, being equally divided between them.

ART. XIV. The ratification of these Articles by five Grand ▭ shall be sufficient for the organization of the Congress.

ART. XV. No change in these articles shall be made without the unanimous consent of the Grand ▭ parties thereto.

ART. XVI. Any Grand ▭ may become a member of this confederation by adopting the above articles.

ART. XVII. Any Grand ▭ may withdraw from the confederation at any time, giving notice to the Secretary.

I thus present you with a crude plan of organization. It avoids many of the difficulties, and obviates the objections that have been urged against a General Grand ▭.

1. The name carries with it perfect equality.

2. No new offices with high sounding titles are created, "no elevated seats are created." (*Con.* 1849.)

3. Its powers are limited and defined, and can be understood by every one who reads the articles.

4. No powers can be usurped. (*See Art.* 15.)

5. No great central power is created. (*See Va.*, 1847.)

6. Sovereignty of Grand ▭ is not interfered with. (*See Tex.*, 1850.)

7. It has no power to charter ▭, or hear complaints from individual ▭ or brethren.

8. It has no revenue to become a bone of contention.

9. Holding its sessions at the same time and place with the General Grand Bodies, the delegates to those bodies would frequently be chosen the representatives to the Congress, and thus the expenses of representatives would be trifling. The expenses of postage, publication of Proceedings, &c., would not amount to ten dollars per year each to the Grand ▭ parties to the confederacy.

10. It would have all the advantages that have been claimed for a General Grand ▭.

11. It might arrange a system of work that would be uniform, and which would be adopted by each Grand ▭.

The representative system was among the recommendations of the Convention of 1843. It is practiced by all the Grand ▭ of the Western Hemisphere, was introduced in the United States, in 1838, by the Grand ▭ of New York, and has been adopted by most of the Grand ▭.

It increases facilities for inter-communication, in which we are deficient, and affords the opportunity for the extension of Masonic courtesies to sister Grand ▭. Many arguments might be adduced in favor of this system, but reminded that this communication is already too lengthy, I leave it for your consideration.

Some time since, I received a communication from the R.·. W.·. John Dove, G.·. S.·. of Virginia, relative to the purchase of Mount Vernon, by the Ladies Mount Vernon Association.

It appears from the communication that the purchase has been made for the sum of $200,000; that $18,000 has been paid, and that the sum of $57,000 is in hand to make the next payment, due January 1, 1859. The balance of the purchase money, $125,000, is payable in three installments on the 22d day of February, 1860, '61, and '62. By the provisions of the agreement between the Ladies Association and the owner of the property, the deferred payments may be made at any time and possession taken, by giving thirty days notice. It is desirable that the whole balance be paid on the 22d of February, 1859. In that case the owner relinquishes all interest in the deferred payments. If each affiliated Mason in the United States would give but one dollar, this glorious object would be accomplished. It is proposed to beautify the grounds, and to allow every Mason, presenting a Grand ▭ certificate, free access thereto, while others are expected to pay a small admission fee.

Shall the appeal made to us by ladies who have done what Masons ought to have done years ago, be in vain?

Will Minnesota, noted for its warm hearts, its open-handed liberal Masons, be behind in this magnificent undertaking? I trust not. I have yet to learn of a rejection of an appeal made to the Craft in Minnesota, and I know the brethren in this State too well to doubt for a moment but that this will meet a hearty response.

Brethren, an apology is due you for thus tiring your patience. I have only to add the hope that the result of your deliberations at this time, will redound to the interest of that portion of the Craft placed in your keep-

ing, and that you may all have occasion to say on your return to your homes—"It was good for us to be there."

R.·. W.·. Brother Mower moved—

1st. That so much of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address as relates to the time of residence of applicants for Degrees, be referred to a select committee of three.

2d. That so much thereof as relates to time intervening between rejections and re-applications of candidates, be referred to a select committee of three.

3d. That so much thereof as relates to a Masonic Congress, be referred to a select committee of three.

4th. That so much thereof as relates to the Grand ▭ resident representative system, be referred to a select committee of three.

5th. That so much thereof as relates to the purchase of Mount Vernon, be referred to a select committee of three.

6th. That the remaining portion of said address be referred to a select committee of three.

Which motion prevailed, and thereupon the M.·. W.·. Grand Master appointed,

As the first of said committees—Bros. Henry Reynolds, L. K. Flanders and Sam. E. Adams.

As the second of said committees—Bros. A. E. Ames, N. P. Langford and John Rhodes.

As the third of said committees—Bros. L. E. Thompson, C. W. Carpenter and Geo. P. Budlong.

As the fourth of said committees—Bros. S. E. Adams, L. Branson and C. C. Jones.

As the fifth of said committees—Bros. A. J. Edgerton, A. E. Ames and Wm. F. Dunbar.

As the sixth of said committees—Bros. J. C. Whipple, J. M. Kerlinger and G. W. Merrill.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand ▭ a volume of the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Ohio, for the years 1808 to 1847 inclusive, presented by that Grand Body to this, through the Grand Secretary, R.·. W.·. Bro. John D. Caldwell. Also a bound volume of the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Iowa, from 1844 to 1853, inclusive, containing portraits of several of the Grand and Past Grand Officers of that jurisdiction, presented by that Grand Body to this, through their Grand Secretary, R.·. W.·. Bro. Theo. S. Parvin.

On motion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the same be preserved in the archives of this Grand ▭, and letters of thanks be returned for the gifts.

The Grand ▭ was then called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27th, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. A. T. C. Pierson, presiding.

Prayer by M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. A. E. Ames.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

Among the visiting brethren this day, was Worshipful Brother M. L. Youngs, Grand Lecturer of the neighboring jurisdiction of Wisconsin, who was welcomed to a seat in the Grand ▭.

The Grand Secretary reported the attendance of the following additional representatives:

Wapahasa ▭, No. 14—S. L. Campbell, Worthy Master: Winona ▭, No. 18—H. D. Morse, Junior Warden; North Star ▭, No. 23—R. C. Burdick, Senior Warden.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Masters address as relates to the time intervening between the rejection and re-application of a candidate, made the following report:

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to time intervening between the rejection and re-application of a candidate, respectfully report the following:

Resolved, That the time intervening between a rejection of a candidate in a Subordinate ▭ under this jurisdiction, and a re-application for the Degrees in the same, shall not be less than six months.

A. E. AMES, JOHN RHODES. } Committee.

The report was accepted and the resolution adopted.

The Committee on Returns of ▭, made the following report:

The Committee on Returns of ▭ would respectfully report, that they have had under examination the returns of the following ▭, and with the exception of some slight informalities in filling the blanks, find them correct.

St. John's ▭ No. 1; Cataract ▭, No. 2; St. Paul ▭, No. 3; Hennepin ▭, No. 4; Ancient Landmark ▭, No. 5; Shakopee ▭, No. 6; Dakota ▭, No. 7; Red Wing ▭, No. 8; Faribault ▭, No. 9; Pacific ▭, No. 10; Mantorville ▭, No. 11; Mankato ▭, No. 12; Henderson ▭, No. 13; Wapahasa ▭, No. 14; Monticello ▭, No. 16; Hokah ▭, No. 17; Winona ▭, No. 18; Minneapolis ▭, No. 19; Caledonia ▭, No. 20; Rochester ▭, No. 21; Pleasant Grove ▭, No. 22; North Star ▭, No. 23; Wilton ▭, No. 24; Clear Water ▭, U.·. D.·.; Western Star ▭, U.·. D.·.; Chatfield ▭, U.·. D.·..

And also St. Cloud ▭, No. 15, from January 1st, 1857, to February 1st, 1858.

WM. H. MOWER, A. T. CHAMBLIN, THOS. RUSSELL. } Committee.

Which report was received and adopted.

R.·. W.·. Bro. Mower offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That this Grand ▭ proceed to the election of its officers at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

R.·. W.·. Bro. Mantor moved to amend by substituting 7 o'clock this evening.

Bro. O. T. Hayes moved to amend by substituting 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The question being upon substituting 7 o'clock this evening, it was agreed to, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

Bro. O. T. Hayes offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Grand ▭ of Minnesota is opposed to the formation of a General Grand ▭ having supreme power, but that this Grand ▭ is in favor of a General Grand Congress, having such limited powers as may be delegated by the sovereign Grand ▭ of the different Grand Jurisdictions.

Bro. Thompson moved the reference of the resolution to the committee on so much of the Grand Master's address as refers to that subject.

A vote by ▭ was taken, and the motion prevailed, by a vote of 45 ayes to 26 noes.

The Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 3 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, the M.·. W.·. Grand Master presiding.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address as relates to the time of residence of applicants for Degrees, made the following report :

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address as relates to the time of residence of applicants for the Degrees in Masonry, would beg leave to report the following resolution :

Resolved, That all applicants for the Degrees in Masonry shall reside within the jurisdiction of this Grand ▭ one year, and within the jurisdiction of the Subordinate ▭ to which application was made, at least six months previous to their making such application.

HENRY REYNOLDS,
L. K. FLANDERS,
SAM. E. ADAMS. } Committee.

The report was received, and the question being upon the adoption of the resolution :

R.·. W.·. Bro. Mantor moved to amend by striking out the words "one year," and inserting the words "six months." Which motion was lost.

Bro. A. T. Chamblin moved to amend the resolution so as to read as follows :

Resolved, That all applicants for the Degrees in Masonry, shall reside within the jurisdiction of the Subordinate ▭ to which application is made, at least one year previous to making such application.

Which motion prevailed, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to a Masonic Congress of the United States, made the following report:

Your committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to a General Grand ▭ of the United States, respectfully report:

That they have had the same under consideration, but that the time allowed them is too short to permit a creditable report upon so important a subject; and were it not that the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address constitutes a perfect report of itself, your committee would require further time to consider the matter.

In the opinion of your committee, an organization of a general character, of a General Grand Body of Masons of the United States, would aid in forming a more perfect union among the Fraternity, insure harmony among the Grand and Subordinate ▭ of each separate jurisdiction, create a jurisdiction wherein questions of Masonic law and jurisprudence could be decided, constitute another strand in the Masonic cable, connecting more intimately brethren and States, and give to the cause of Masonry a new impulse.

They therefore offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Grand ▭ is in favor of the organization of a General Grand Body of Masons, for the purposes designated in the M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address; that while it is opposed to the formation of a Grand ▭ having supreme power, it is in favor of a Masonic Congress of Masons of the United States, having certain delegated rights; and respectfully presents to the consideration of the Masonic Fraternity of the United States, the plan proposed by the M.·. W.·. Grand Master, A. T. C. Pierson, in his address to this Grand ▭, as the basis of organization.

Resolved, That for the purpose of such organization, there be selected at the present Communication of this Grand ▭, three delegates to attend a convocation of Masons at the triennial session of the General Grand R.·. A.·. Chapter of the United States, in 1859.

Your committee would further recommend that the following persons be selected as delegates to such convention, M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. A. T. C. Pierson, M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. A. E. Ames, and R.·. W.·. G.·. S.·. Geo. W. Prescott.

L. E. Thompson, }
G. P. Budlong. } Committee.

The report was received and the resolutions and recommendations of the committee were adopted.

The committee on so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the Grand ▭ Resident Representative System, made the following report, which was received and concurred in, and the resolution was unanimously adopted:

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the appointment of Representatives from this to other Grand ▭, and from other Grand ▭ to this, have had the same under consideration, and believing that all efforts to promote Masonic intercourse will result in increased harmony and strength to the Craft, would submit the following resolution, and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the M.·. W.·. Grand Master appoint representatives from this Grand Body to reside at or near, and represent us in other Grand ▭,

and respectfully request the appointment of like representatives to this Grand ▭.

SAM. E. ADAMS,
L. BRANSON,
C. C. JONES. } Committee.

The Committee on Returns of ▭ U.·. D.·., made the following report, which was received and concurred in, and the resolution was adopted:

The Committee on Work of ▭ U.·. D.·., respectfully report, that they have examined the Work of the following ▭ U.·. D.·., namely, Chatfield ▭, Blue Earth Valley ▭, and Clear Water ▭, and with the exception of some trifling irregularities in their Proceedings, find them correct.

Your committee have also examined the Work and By-Laws of Western Star ▭ U.·. D.·., and find the following errors in their Proceedings:

1. Their records do not show that the minutes of their meetings were read and approved.

2. At a Special Communication held July 7, 1858, business was transacted which could only be brought up at a Stated Communication, namely, "balloting for Degrees," &c.

3. On September 22, 1858, the ▭ was called from labor to refreshment for two weeks.

Your committee would refer Western Star ▭ to a resolution on that subject, passed at the Communication of this Grand ▭ in 1857.

Your committee would also recommend that that part of Section three, Article one, of their By-Laws which relates to continued meetings, be stricken out.

Your committee would further call the attention of the ▭ to the edict of the Grand ▭, with reference to applicants for advancement, as nothing is mentioned concerning the examination required by that edict in the records before us.

With these exceptions your committee approve the Work of Western Star ▭; and believing the brethren will promptly correct the errors alluded to, when advised of them, we recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That charters be issued to Meridian ▭, No. 25, at Chatfield; to Western Star ▭, No. 26, at Albert Lea; to Blue Earth Valley ▭, No. 27, at Winnebago City, and to Clear Water ▭, No. 28, at Clear Water, upon their depositing the fees required by the Constitution of the Grand ▭.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY REYNOLDS.
C. G. WYKOFF,
JOSEPH DEAN. } Committee.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the purchase of Mount Vernon, made the following report:

Your committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's address as relates to the purchase of Mount Vernon, would respectfully submit the following, and recommend its adoption:

This Grand ▭ of Masons feels a deep interest in the efforts now being made for the purchase of that sacred retreat which contains the remains of him who was not only "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," but who, while alive, was a bright and exemplary Mason—one who taught its principles and practiced its precepts. And for the purpose of rendering a more effective support towards the consummation of this desirable object, it is by this Grand ▭

Resolved, That it is hereby recommended to the M.·. W.·. Master of each Subordinate ▭ under this jurisdiction, to bring this subject specially before his ▭ for its consideration, and to urge the propriety of each member's

contributing for the advancement of this glorious object; also, to forward whatever contributions may be received, with the names of the donors thereof, to the Grand Secretary of this Grand ▭.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary is hereby authorized and empowered to forward all such sums of money as he may receive for that purpose, to the Treasurer of the Ladies Mount Vernon Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. J. EDGERTON, }
A. E. AMES. } Committee.

The report was concurred in, and the resolutions were adopted unanimously.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand ▭ a petition from certain persons residing in Medford and vicinity, asking a charter for a Masonic ▭ at that place; which, on motion, was referred to a special committee consisting of Brothers Reynolds, Whipple and Mower.

Bro. Reynolds offered the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The following named brethren, Bros. Wm. Holcombe, A. C. Smith, and Henry Reynolds, were elected trustees of the Grand ▭ at its Annual Communication in 1857, and

Whereas, The minutes of said election do not appear on the records of this Grand ▭, therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to insert in the minutes of this Grand ▭, the election of the above named brethren as such trustees.

Bro. Wykoff moved the appointment of a committee to prepare the pay roll for this session of the Grand ▭, which motion prevailed, and Bros. Wykoff, Campbell, and Morse were appointed such committee.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence made their annual report, at the conclusion of the reading of which, the Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until 7 o'clock this evening.

[For report see Appendix.]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 7 O'Clock P. M.

The ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, the M.·. W.·. Grand Master presiding.

This being the hour designated for the election of Grand Officers, the Grand ▭ proceeded to that business—Bros. Branson and Carpenter being appointed tellers—and the following Grand Officers were elected for the ensuing year: *

M.·. W.·. A. T. C. PIERSON, St. Paul, Grand Master, re-elected.
R.·. W.·. D. B. LOOMIS, Stillwater, Deputy Grand Master, re-elected.
R.·. W.·. FRANK MANTOR, Mantorville, Senior Grand Warden, re-elected.
R.·. W.·. SAMUEL E. ADAMS, Monticello, Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. EMANUEL CASE, Minneapolis, Grand Treasurer, re-elected.
R.·. W.·. GEO. W. PRESCOTT, St. Paul, Grand Secretary, re-elected.

* R.·.W.·. Bro. A. C. Smith had previously in a letter to the Grand Master, declined a re-election. G.·. S.·.

The Grand ▭ was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1858, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ▭ was called from refreshment to labor, the M.·. W.·. Grand Master presiding.

Prayer by the M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. A. E. Ames.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances made the following report;

The Committee on Appeals and Grievances, have had under consideration the appeal of Edwin B. Hood, from the sentence of expulsion pronounced against him on the 25th day of November, A. D. 1857, by Shakopee ▭, No. 6, in this jurisdiction; and having examined the testimony and papers sent up to this Grand ▭ upon said appeal, beg leave to report:

That sec. 43, of title 6, of the Constitution of this Grand ▭, provides that all charges proper to be written, shall be made in writing, and a copy of the same made out by the Secretary, together with a summons stating the time of trial, shall be served at the usual place of abode, at least ten days previous to the day appointed for trial.

In this case no proper charges were made or served, and no sufficient summons issued or served by the Secretary of said ▭. And the service of the letter informing the said Hood of his trial, was not made as required by the Constitution. The said Hood, at the time the notice of trial was issued and sent, resided in the city of New York, and it was served by mail, and could not have been, and was not received by him in time to enable him to attend at the trial, and he was not present.

Your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the sentence of expulsion heretofore pronounced by Shakopee ▭, No. 6, against Bro. E. B. Hood, is hereby reversed, and that said cause be remanded back to said ▭ for a new trial.

Respectfully submitted.

L. E. THOMPSON,
A. T. CHAMBLIN,
G. P. BUDLONG,
A. J. EDGERTON,
O. T. HAYES. } Committee.

Which report was concurred in, and the resolution was adopted.

The majority and minority reports of the Committee upon Appeals and Grievances, upon the appeal of Isaac Brown, from the sentence of expulsion pronounced against him by Hennepin ▭, No. 4, were received.

Whereupon Bro. A. T. Chamblin moved the adoption of the minority report reversing the sentence of expulsion, and restoring the appellant to all the rights and privileges of Masonry; and

Upon a vote by ▭, there were ayes 29, and noes 40. So the motion did not prevail.

Bro. L. E. Thompson moved the adoption of the majority report,

affirming the sentence of expulsion heretofore pronounced by Hennepin □, No. 4, against Isaac Brown; and

Upon a vote by [□], there were ayes 44, and noes 25. So the motion prevailed, and the report was accordingly adopted.

The special committee to whom was referred the petition of certain brethren residing at Medford, made the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the application of certain brethren residing at Medford, praying for a charter to open a □ at that place, would respectfully report:

That though they have made diligent inquiry of the brethren residing in that vicinity, they can find no one who can vouch for the Masonic standing of any of the applicants. They also find that Faribault □, No. 9, is not more than eight miles from Medford, and that there appears to be no immediate necessity for more [□] in that vicinity, and therefore would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is inexpedient at this Communication, to grant the prayer of the applicants.

HENRY REYNOLDS,
J. C. WHIPPLE,
H. D. MORSE. } Committee.

The report was received and concurred in, and the resolution was adopted.

The committee upon so much of the Grand Master's address as was not specially referred to other committees, made the following report:

The committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address not otherwise referred, have had the same under consideration, and would report:

That after due deliberation, they have concluded there is nothing demanding special notice from them, except that portion relating to the subject of of non-affiliation. Upon that subject they have to say,

1. That the time granted them in which to report, is insufficient for giving to the matter the consideration it requires.

2. Your committee consider themselves incompetent to act upon a subject of so much importance to the Craft; for in view of the fact that there is so large a number of non-affiliated Masons sojourning among us, your committee deem it of great importance that the subject be duly considered, and some measures taken to restrict the privileges of that class. They would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That as a basis for our action upon this subject at the next Annual Communication, the Grand Secretary be instructed to require of the Subordinate [□], that they severally return to him, on or before the 1st day of July next, the names of all non-affiliated Masons residing within their several jurisdictions on the 1st day of June, 1859.

J. C. WHIPPLE,
J. M. KERLINGER. } Committee.

The report was concurred in, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The committee appointed to prepare the Pay Roll, made the following report:

The committee appointed to prepare the Pay-Roll of Members, would respectfully report the following:

PAY ROLL OF MEMBERS.

NAME OF LODGE.	No. Lodge.	No. Days.	Per diem.	Travel'g Expenses	Total.	TO WHOM PAYABLE.
Saint John's,	1	3	$9 00	$4 00	$13 00	L. E. Thompson.
Cataract,	2	3	9 00	2 00	11 00	H. Reynolds.
Saint Paul,	3	3	9 00		9 00	N. W. Kittson.
Hennepin,	4	3	9 00	2 00	11 00	A. E. Ames.
Ancient Landmark,	5	3	9 00		9 00	C. W. Carpenter.
Shakopee,	6	3	9 00	3 00	12 00	J. M. Kerlinger.
Dakota,	7	3	9 00	3 00	12 00	John Rhodes, proxy.
Red Wing,	8	3	9 00	5 00	14 00	John H. Brand.
Faribault,	9	3	9 00	10 00	19 00	J. C. Whipple.
Pacific,	10	3	9 00		9 00	W. H. Wolff.
Mantorville,	11	3	9 00	10 00	19 00	A. J. Edgerton.
Mankato,	12	3	9 00	12 00	21 00	Lewis Branson.
Henderson,	13	3	9 00	10 00	*16 67	Thomas Russell.
Wapahasa,	14	3	9 00	7 00	16 00	S. L. Campbell.
Saint Cloud,	15	...				Not represented.
Monticello,	16	3	9 00	9 00	*6 00	S. E. Adams.
Hokah,	17	3	9 00	14 00	23 00	C. G. Wykoff.
Winona,	18	3	9 00	9 00	18 00	H. D. Morse.
Minneapolis,	19	3	9 00	2 00	11 00	Joseph Dean.
Caledonia,	20	3	9 00		9 00	W. F. Dunbar, proxy.
Rochester,	21	3	9 00	12 00	21 00	C. C. Jones.
Pleasant Grove,	22	3	9 00	15 00	*20 50	Geo. P. Budlong.
North Star,	23	3	9 00	14 00	*19 50	R. C. Burdick.
Wilton,	24	...				Not represented.
Grand Treasurer,	...	3	9 00	2 00	11 00	Emanuel Case.
Total,	...	...			$330 67	

*Whole amount of dues paid into Grand ☐.

C. G. WYKOFF,
H. D. MORSE,
S. L. CAMPBELL. } Committee.

The report was concurred in, and the amounts therein set forth ordered paid.

Brother A. J. Edgerton offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That three hundred dollars be allowed the Grand Secretary, for the year past, to include expenses for stationery and postage of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

On motion of R.·. W.·. Brother Mantor, voted unanimously, that the Grand Tyler be paid thirty dollars for his services and expenses during the present Communication.

The Grand Secretary laid before the Grand ☐ a communication from Brother J. E. Martin, which was ordered to be spread upon the minutes, and published with the Proceedings.

[COPY OF LETTER.]

To the Grand ☐ of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota:

BRETHREN:—I take great pleasure in presenting to your Honorable Body, the photographic likenesses of the officers of this Grand ☐, for the past year, and shall take further pleasure in presenting to your Honorable Body the likenesses of your officers for each and every year following, during my stay in this State.

Hoping the originals may long be spared to us,

I am Fraternally yours,

J. E. MARTIN.

ST. PAUL, OCTOBER 28, 1858.

On motion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand ☐ be returned to Bro. J. E. Martin, for so appropriate and valuable a gift; that the photographs presented be appropriately framed and preserved in the Grand Secretary's office, and that they be hung up in the ☐ room during the Annual Communications of this Grand Body.

Brother C. G. Wykoff offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Bro. J. E. Martin has taken photographic likenesses of the present Grand Officers of this Grand ☐, therefore,

Resolved, That the Grand Master be requested to procure photographs of the first and subsequent Grand Officers, to be preserved in the Grand Secretary's office.

The Grand Secretary made the following financial report:

REPORT OF GRAND SECRETARY.

Geo. W. Prescott in account with Grand ☐, *for year ending Oct.* 28, 1858.

Dues received from ☐ at this Communication.

Saint John's, No. 1,	$29 12½	
Cataract, No. 2,	59 00	
Saint Paul, No. 3,	34 75	
Hennepin, No. 4,	47 88	
Ancient Landmark, No. 5,	54 44	
Shakopee, No. 6,	33 88	
Dakotah, No. 7,	18 37½	
Red Wing, No. 8,	35 12½	
Faribault, No. 9,	23 37½	
Pacific, No. 10,	33 37½	
Mantorville, No. 11,	24 37½	
Mankato, No. 12,	34 25	
Henderson, No. 13,	16 67½	
Wapahasa, No. 14,	22 87½	
Monticello, No. 16,	6 00	
Hokah, No. 17,	38 25	
Winona, No. 18,	36 50	
Minneapolis, No. 19,	46 88	
Caledonia, No. 20,	13 62½	
Rochester, No. 21,	23 00	
Pleasant Grove, No. 22,	20 50	
North Star, No. 23,	19 50	
Wilton, No. 24,	19 37½	
Chatfield, U.·. D.·.	19 00	
		$710 13

Received on last year's dues from ☐, as follows:

Shakopee, No. 6,	$47 50	
Mankato, No. 12,	52 50	
Saint Cloud, No. 15,	7 00	
		$107 00

Received for Dispensations from ☐ as follows:

Blue Earth Valley, U.·. D.·.,	20 00	
Clear Water, U.·. D.·.,	20 00	
		$40 00

Received for charter from ☐ as follows:

Meridian, No. 25, (formerly Chatfield, U.·. D.·.,)	$25 00	
		$25 00
Total receipts,		$882 13

Due from Subordinate ▭ as follows:

St. Cloud, No. 15, balance due for 1857,..... $4 00
" " due for 1858,.....

Full returns have been received, and dues paid from all the ▭ except St. Cloud, No. 15. The returns from that ▭ for 1857, were received during the past summer, and were submitted and reported upon at the present Communication. The dues as nearly as could be estimated from the imperfect returns received, amounted to $11,00, of which $7,00 have been paid. No returns for 1858 received, and consequently amount of dues unknown.

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *G.·. S.·.*

Received of Grand Secretary, $882,13, as above.

E. CASE, *G.·. T.·.*

OCTOBER 28, 1858.

REPORT OF GRAND TREASURER.

E. Case in account with Grand ▭ for year ending October 28, 1858.

Balance on hand as per report of January last.....		$900 75
Paid order of M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. to Goodrich, Somers & Co., for printing Grand ▭ Proceedings.....		260 00
Balance on hand at commencement of present session.....		$640 75
Oct. 28, 1858, Received from Grand Secretary.....	$882 13	
Paid as per Pay Roll.....	$339 67	
Paid Grand Secretary's salary.....	300 00	
Paid Grand Tyler as per resolution.....	30 00	660 67
Balance on hand for October session.....		$221 46
Balance in Treasury.....		$862 21

E. CASE, *G.·. T.·.*

The Committee on the Secretary and Treasurer's Books reported as follows:

The committee appointed to examine the Secretary and Treasurer's Books, report that they have examined the foregoing accounts rendered by said officers, and find them correct.

D. B. LOOMIS, W. H. WOLFF. } Committee.

Which report was received and concurred in.

The Committee on Unfinished Business made the following report, which was concurred in:

The Committee on Unfinished Business beg leave at this time to report, That there is no business which your committee have any business to report upon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. T. HAYES, *for Committee.*

M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. A. E. Ames, then proceeded to install, in due form, Bro. A. T. C. Pierson, as the M.·. W.·. Grand Master for the ensuing year, who thereupon duly installed the remaining elected Grand Officers, to wit:

R.·. W.·. D. B. LOOMIS, No. 1, Stillwater, Deputy Grand Master.
R.·. W.·. FRANK MANTOR, No. 11, Mantorville, Senior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. SAM. E. ADAMS, No. 16, Monticello, Junior Grand Warden.
R.·. W.·. EMANUEL CASE, No. 19, Minneapolis, Grand Treasurer.
R.·. W.·. GEO. W. PRESCOTT, No. 5, St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

The M.·. W.·. Grand Master announced the appointment of, and proceeded to install the following Grand Officers.

R.·. W.·. JOHN PENMAN, No. 5, St. Paul, Grand Chaplain.
W.·. LEWIS BRANSON, No. 12, Mankato, Grand Marshal.
W.·. H. D. MORSE, No. 18, Winona, Grand Standard Bearer.
W.·. C. G. WYKOFF, No. 17, Hokah, Grand Sword Bearer.
W.·. GEO. P. BUDLONG, No. 22, Pleasant Grove, Senior Grand Deacon.
W.·. R. C. BURDICK, No. 23, Watab, Junior Grand Deacon.
W.·. J. C. WHIPPLE, No. 9, Faribault, Grand Pursuivant.
W.·. Wm. H. WOLFF, No. 10, St. Paul, Senior Grand Steward.
W.·. JOHN RHODES, No. 7, Hastings, Junior Grand Steward.
W.·. A. RICHARDSON, No. 5, St. Paul, Grand Tyler.

The following brethren were appointed a Committee on Foreign Correspondence; Brothers Geo. W. Prescott, Wm. H. Mower, and Henry Reynolds.

There being no further business to transact, after prayer by a brother, the Seventh Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand ▭ of Minnesota, was declared at an end, and the Grand ▭ was closed in ample form.

A. T. C. PIERSON, *Grand Master.*

Attest,
GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *Grand Secretary.*

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

To the M.·. W.·. G.·. L.·. of Minnesota:

Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence come before you again, joyfully groaning under the load of good things which has been piled upon them from East, West and South; and waiving the usual ceremony of an extended preliminary, introduce the brethren first to the Grand ▭ of—

ALABAMA, 1857.

Grand Annual Communication at Montgomery, December, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

The Grand Master, in his address, after alluding to the objects of Grand ▭ Communications, pays a lengthy tribute to the memory of their late Grand Secretary, R.·. W.·. Armand P. Pfister, who died at the commencement of this year. He was appointed Grand Secretary in 1837, to fill a vacancy; at the next Communication, was

elected, and continued to fill the office until called from all earthly labors, a period of twenty years.

"During the last year," says the Grand Master, "I have received numerous letters of inquiry concerning Masonic usage and law, all of which I have answered to the best of my ability, but had the ▭ been in possession of the different standard text-books, and some of the Masonic periodicals, many of the letters need not have been written or answered, and, no doubt, in some cases, difficulties and heart-burnings prevented." He also calls attention to "one of the greatest evils with which we have to contend, it is that of aspiration for office." Says he, "It is too frequently the case that a brother is desirous to be elected a Master or Warden of a ▭, and failing in his aspirations, considers his *claims* overlooked, becomes dissatisfied, and withdraws; perhaps gets up another ▭ in rivalry of his old one, and becomes its Master; or failing in this, he becomes dissatisfied with the whole Order." He thinks that a ▭ with the right kind of a Master should retain him in office, alleging it as his experience "that those old ▭ that have had the fewest Masters, are generally the most harmonious, prosperous, and intelligent."

There was during the year but one application for a dispensation to confer Degrees, and that one was to confer the Degrees of F.·. C.·. and M.·. M.·. upon an E.·. A.·. who was about to remove to another part of the State. The appplication was refused on the ground that the brother might return and receive the other Degrees, or get permission to have them conferred by the ▭ where he was to reside. Quite a different custom from that of our Most Worshipful Brother of New Jersey, who thought so little of granting *ten* dispensations to make Masons at sight, that he did not deem it necessary even to assign a reason; and different also from our New Hampshire brethren, as will be seen when we come to them.

The importance of collecting and preserving the materials for, and writing the history of Masonry in that State, is urged upon the Grand ▭; and it is recommended also that a few hundred copies of the address of the Grand Master and the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be printed in advance of the annual communications, so that more time and opportunity may be given to deliberate and act upon the suggestions they may contain.

We notice in the Proceedings of the Grand ▭, that Past Master's Jewels were presented to P.·. G.·. Masters S. A. M. Wood and Edward Herndon, the presentation eliciting happy speeches. Also that $500 was appropriated for the erection of a monument to their late Grand Secretary. The library of the Grand ▭ was increased by $143.50 worth of Masonic books, and it was voted to purchase a set

of the Universal Masonic Library, for each Subordinate ▭ in that jurisdiction, at forty dollars a set, to be paid for by the Grand ▭, in three annual installments.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in a report of six pages, acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of 28 Grand ▭, (Minnesota not among them,) and give their views upon several questions, now discussed by the Masonic world, such as, the best method for ensuring uniformity of Work, new tests, Masonic instruction, non-affiliation. This report was referred to a special committee. They, like the man who won the elephant in a raffle, didn't know what to do with it, and reported it back without recommending anything further than that the resolutions appended be not adpoted. Their report was concurred in.

The Grand ▭ of Alabama has been laboring to devise some plan for securing in that jurisdiction uniformity and permanency in Work. A committee appointed to propose certain amendments to the Constitution, reported that two systems of lecturing had been tried and have failed; and they recommended the appointment of a Committee on Work, consisting of five, who shall hold the office for ten years, shall meet annually to perfect themselves in the Work, and report through their chairman annually to the Grand ▭. They also recommend that the Subordinate ▭ be laid off into eleven districts, that the ▭ in each district send delegates to the most central ▭, once in two years, which delegates shall elect a Lecturer for the district, who shall meet with the Committee on Work, and be by them instructed in the Work and lectures, which Work and lectures, and no other, he shall give to the Subordinate ▭. Provision is also made for payment of expenses.

This plan was ordered to be submitted to the Subordinate ▭ for approval or rejection.

The Committee on Finance reported the total amount of funds, in cash and notes, in the Treasury, at $16,846.45.

ARKANSAS, 1857.

Grand Annual Communication at Little Rock, Nov. 2, 3, 4, 5.

The Grand Master congratulates the Craft upon the progress of our Institution in that jurisdiction, and well says, in cautioning against the admission of the unworthy, "You are not acting for yourselves, and your immediate neighborhood, alone, in admitting members, but for Masonry wherever dispersed around the globe." He announces the following among his decisions:

"A brother who has violated the laws of the land, and is in custody of the civil authorities, should not be tried by the ▭ until he has been tried

by a jury of his countrymen." [The Grand ☐ non-concurred in this decision.]

An instance is related of a question's coming up in a ☐ where he was present, which made a reference to the By-Laws necessary, but not a copy could be found. "Thus you see," says he, "candidates are required to subscribe to By-Laws of which they are wholly ignorant; and members are required to conform to By-Laws which are not in existence." Nine dispensations for new ☐ were granted, and two for ☐ under suspension, to resume labor. The Grand Master makes an appeal on behalf of St. John's College, saying:—"Soon we shall be called on to lay the corner-stone, and we will be able to see in twelve months from this time, one wing of the building up and ready."

The Grand ☐ was presented with the jewels of the first Masonic ☐ established in that State. These jewels originally belonged to the Grand ☐ of Missouri. In 1818, Bro. Scott, the Master of the ☐ having them in possession, was appointed Superior Judge of the Territory of Arkansas, and upon leaving for his new home, his ☐ disbanded. He asked and obtained permission to retain the jewels, as a present to the first ☐ which should be established in the new Territory. In 1819, a ☐ U.·. D.·. from Kentucky, was established at the post of Arkansas, and was presented with the jewels; but upon the subsequent removal of the seat of government to Little Rock, the ☐ surrendered her dispensation, and the jewels were returned to Bro. Scott, at his request, for the next oldest ☐. They did not again see service until 1836, when the Grand ☐ of Tennessee granted a dispensation for a ☐ at Fayetteville. In 1839 a dispensation was granted for a ☐ at Clarksville, Bro. Scott being one of the petitioners; the ☐ at Fayetteville having recommended the petition, and having also new jewels, presented her old jewels for the use of the Clarksville ☐. In 1845, Clarksville ☐ surrendered her charter. The Master of Franklin ☐ No. 9, was deputed to take charge of her property for the Grand ☐, with liberty to retain the jewels for his own ☐, which ☐ in October last, presented them to the Grand ☐ of Arkansas. The revelations of that square would be interesting.

On the fourth day of the session, the Grand ☐ laid the corner-stone of St. John's college, with the usual ceremonies. Bro. E. H. English delivered a lengthy but interesting oration, which closes with a vivid picture of the blessedness of that man who shall bestow his fortune for the endowment of the Institution. "His name, like that of Jefferson and Girard, shall be immortalized by the eloquence and the songs of all coming ages."

A uniform code of By-Laws for Subordinate ▭ was adopted, and it was ordered that the Constitution of the Grand ▭, and the rules for trials, be printed with the By-Laws, and twenty copies be furnished to each Subordinate ▭. But two cases of appeal came up; in each, the action of the ▭ appealed from, was sustained.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence review the proceedings of all the Grand ▭ in the United States, except that of Delaware. In noticing Minnesota, the committee say:

"Thus, step by step, Masonry advances with civilization, and contributes its moral and social influences in the proper organization of communities in the wilderness."

In noticing a resolution of the Grand ▭ of Illinois, requesting its Subordinates to *root out the evil of intemperance from among them*, the committee say:

"Notwithstanding the newspapers are in the habit of locating in *Arkansas* all the *ugly* stories which they publish for the amusement of their readers, we venture to state, without meaning to boast, that our Masonic Fraternity are as sober and virtuous generally, as they are in any of our sister jurisdictions; yet it is mournfully true that there are *some intemperate* Brothers in our ▭. There is, however, most assuredly, not a ▭ within our jurisdiction that would initiate a *drunkard;* but it not unfrequently happens here, as well as elsewhere, no doubt, that a very sober young man is made a Mason, and afterwards, in progress of time, he unfortunately becomes intemperate. It is a lamentable fact, that from the days of good old Noah, down to the present time, many of our fallen race have been prone to the extensive use of intoxicating liquors; and a goodly number will drink them though they contain *strychnine* enough to *murder a wolf*. It often happens that intemperance is a weakness with a Brother rather than a crime. He is a good man in all other respects, and brethren are disposed to bear with him and forgive him, seventy and seven times rather than cut him off. Now if the Subordinate ▭ of Illinois, acting upon the *request* of their Grand ▭, shall discover a successful process of *rooting out* the evils of intemperance from among them, we pray them to advise us of the *modus operandi* by which it is done, and we shall hope to see *our* Grand ▭ *request* its Subordinates to put in operation the same rooting process. Not a hundred years ago, nor a thousand miles from this place, we saw a weak Brother rooting in the mud near the door of a grog-shop, and as such brethren appear to be fond of *rooting*, they must not complain if they are *rooted* out of the ▭."

AUSTRALIA, 1857.

From this far-off jurisdiction, we have the pleasure of announcing the reception of a handsomely printed chart, containing "a list of the Provincial Grand Officers for the year ending December 27, 1857, together with the officers and members of all Craft ▭ in Victoria, Australia, of Free and Accepted Masons, under the jurisdiction of the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of Ireland." R.·. W.·. John Thomas Smith, M. L. A., is Provincial Grand Master, and "Very Worshipful," Joseph William Torrey, is Provincial Grand Secretary. The Grand ▭ meets on the nights of full moon in March, June, October and December, and the Annual Meeting is in December. The following are the Subordinate ▭:

Australia Felix ▭ of Hiram, No. 349, at Melbourne, 59 members; Washington ▭, No. 368, at Melbourne, 54 members; Victoria ▭ of East Collingwood, U.·. D.·., at Collingwood, 27 members; and Forest Creek Saint John's Tradesmen's ▭, U.·. D.·., at Forest Creek, 17 members.

We hope to add the Proceedings of this Grand ▭ to our list before another year passes.

CALIFORNIA, 1858.

Ninth Grand Annual Communication at Sacramento, May 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17.

The Grand Master commences his address with a beautiful exordium, and congratulates the brethren upon the welfare and prosperity of the Order, saying that the general harmony has met with but one interruption. That exception was the case of a ▭ which refused to punish a member who had been guilty of a gross violation of a Masonic law and duty. The G.·. M.·. arrested the charter, suspended the member, and cited him before the Grand ▭ for trial. The action of the G.·. M.·. was fully sustained, the offender, Joseph Mayer, was expelled from the Order, and a portion of the members of the arrested ▭ were granted a charter for a new ▭. The G.·. M.·. states that many applications for Dispensations to confer Degrees, had been made to him. "These," said he, "I have invariably refused, for the reasons that those applying had been living within a short distance of ▭ for years, and had never discovered that they could be of benefit to the Fraternity, until they learned that the Fraternity could be of immediate benefit to them; and for the further reason, that I do not think we have any right to inflict upon our brethren elsewhere, half-made Masons, or hazard our reputation as workmen, by sending such abroad as accredited specimens of our labor. Our own jurisdiction has suffered too much from that cause to be ignorant of its duty in this respect."

The G.·. M.·. recommends "a repeal of the resolution permitting the Subordinate ▭ to ballot for the three Degrees at the same time; if not an infringement upon Masonic usage, as I am inclined to think it is, it has been and I think must ever be, attended with confusion and evils to the Fraternity."

The matter was laid over without action. Your committee have expressed an opinion upon this matter. If the portals were well guarded, there would not be such a desire to multiply the chances for a ballot.

The Grand Secretary, in his report, says:

"The numbers of the chartered ▭ now reach to 117, and there are outstanding 12 Dispensations, making in all 129 ▭ which have been established under the authority of this Grand ▭, besides the former Pacific

▭ U.·. D.·., at Valparaiso. Of these, two have withdrawn to aid in the formation of the Grand ▭ of Oregon, six have surrendered their charters, one has been suspended, and one has ceased under its Dispensation, leaving now in active existence under the jurisdiction of the Grand ▭ of California, one hundred and eight chartered [▭], and eleven under Dispensation."

The Grand ▭, during its six days session, transacted a "volume" of business, the Proceedings, exclusive of tables, returns, standing resolutions, &c., covering 356 pages. We notice among other things, that one Brother M. M. Moore, had lost his sight, was in indigent circumstances, had a large family, and desiring to return to his old home in Pennsylvania, applied to the Grand ▭ for charity, whereupon a collection was taken up in the Grand ▭, amounting to $225.

The Committee on Education report adversely to any attempt to establish a Masonic College at present, not only on account of want of funds, but because "they believe that the very wise and ample provisions of our State Government for the free education of all classes of children, whether under the special care of this Fraternity or not, are quite sufficient to meet all our wants." They express the opinion, "that the ordinary Masonic attention to the education of each individual case, as it may arise, in the common schools provided for the people, without attempting the erection of a new school, or identifying ourselves with any particular one now in existence, will accomplish for the present the full measure of our duty." The report was concurred in. While noticing the struggle made by some of our sister Grand [▭] to found Colleges, and by others to keep in existence those that are founded, we have been seriously troubled by the thought, that the thousands of dollars expended in keeping one such institution in feeble existence, and thereby giving a classical finish to a few young men, will furnish an excellent English education, sufficient for the practical purposes of life, to an army of youths and maidens, whom those colleges never enlighten. Had our Grand ▭ sufficient funds for the endowment of such an institution, we would still prefer that the ten orphan children of our deceased brother should be reared up to make intelligent men and women, than that one of them should be "skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians," while the remaining nine were bound to a life-long poverty by the chain of ignorance.

Past Grand Master Wm. H. Howard was presented by the present Grand Master, on behalf of the Fraternity, with a beautiful gold watch costing $400. The amount contributed by the different [▭] for the purchase of a testimonial was $1,081.75. The balance was paid to the M.·. W.·. Brother in money.

The Masonic Board of Relief of the city of San Francisco, re-

ported the sum of $2,766.25 expended for charity during the preceding twelve months. California herself, received the most, $849.24, and Delaware the least, $5.00. Louisiana received $385.00. (The whole amount was distributed to the needy from sixteen jurisdictions.)

The Committee on Grievances report upon an appeal case before them, in which the ▭ failed to send up the evidence; and saying that the accused in appealing had done his part in bringing the case up, and ought not to suffer because the ▭ had neglected a duty, they offer a resolution reversing the sentence of the ▭, and remanding the case for a new trial. The resolution was adopted.

R.·. W.·. Bro. Abell, for the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, in 57 pages of solid brevier, gives what he justly calls "a faithful summary of the Proceedings of those Grand Bodies which it professes to review." The Committee on Finance having become convinced that the Grand ▭ of California spends too much money, began to cast about for opportunities to *retrench*, by applying a "condenser" somewhere in their printed Proceedings; the report of Brother Abell looked formidable; but the financiers, finding no weak point whereat to begin their attack, merely stigmatized it as a "coronet of brilliants, reflecting upon the world the very tints and warmth of our open-hearted California nurtured Masonry—a magnetic circle, which can hardly be subjected to pressure without the fear of drying up the lovely currents of sympathy that constitute the most entrancing beauties of our glorious Order," and then passed on to something more vulnerable. Well, it is an able and readable document, and although the Brother expresses his own opinion freely upon quite a variety of matter, he has not, that we have noticed, once forgotten that he is a Mason, talking to Masons, about Masonry. Your committee were intending "respectfully, but firmly," to dissent from Bro. Abell's assertions; but he has so artfully, yet good naturedly sheltered himself, front and rear, between the threats of "Young America" on one side, and "Old Fogyism" on the other, that we are abashed into silence. "At the risk," says he, "of encountering from some of our young, but apparently very *ancient* brethren a further shower of 'Ancient Landmarks,' and 'Young America,' we declare," &c. "Not until some more potent spirit than the 'spirit of young America,' or more venerable shade than that of 'Old Fogyism,' shall be evoked to convince us," &c. Go on, Brother, we *are* young—you touch us tenderly there; and we cannot meddle with the "man of mature years," who thus puts on a breastplate both before and behind. Had not the R.·. W.·. Brother thus intrenched himself, we should have heedlessly expressed our

failure to be convinced by his reasoning that in "these latter days," an Apprenticeship as Warden was not a pre-requisite to becoming Masters. Speaking of the old requirement, he says:

"When those 'charges' were written, there is little doubt that one who 'had acted as Warden,' was likely to be the most competent person to serve as Master, and the good of the Order was evidently consulted in the regulation. Is it necessarily so now? On the contrary, does not all our experience show that there are frequently those in a ▭ much better qualified for the Chair than the brethren whom accident or a mistaken partiality has placed for a season in South and West. * * * * All this, too, is upon the supposed proposition that the 'old charges' *absolutely* required that a Master should first have served as Warden. But there is room for doubt whether or not that might have been intended to be merely suggestive that one who had served would probably be the fittest for the higher office. The fourth of the 'old charges'—the one which contains this so-called regulation, commences as follows:—*All* preferment among Masons is grounded upon *real worth and personal merit only*. * * * *Therefore no Master or Warden* is chosen by seniority, but for his merit.' Now, this would seem to say that a Warden is not necessarily to be selected from among those who had occupied the office next in rank, but from those best qualified to discharge the duties of the position. This, to be sure, is at variance with the apparent positiveness of the words which soon after follow—'No brother can be a Warden until he has passed the part of a Fellow Craft, or a Master until he has acted as a Warden;' but if the two passages cannot be reconciled to mean that a Warden should be elected Master in preference to any other brother, *equally capable*—not 'for his seniority, but for his merit'—then we prefer to consult the real good of the Order by acting only under the sensible proposition laid down in the commencement of the charge. * * To close the argument, it is only necessary to say that in the days when the 'old charges' were set forth, we do not hear of the Degree of 'Master Mason.' Entered Apprentices were made in the several private ▭, and they were *Masons*. The Degree of Fellow Craft was conferred in the Grand ▭, (when it was established,) and from among those the Wardens and *Masters* were selected; and the last—meaning the Masters of ▭—were chosen from among those who had served in the office next in rank, for the good reason that in those days they were, beyond doubt, the most likely to be the best qualified to perform the duties of the office."

Were it not for our fear of what might come of it, we should suggest that what was good for human nature in those early days, is good for the same human nature now; and *therefore*, instead of encouraging the brethren to slack their watch of the first two gates by giving the East an easy remedy for such inattention, we would still keep up the old cry, "Look *well* to the South,"—"Look *well* to the West," and if by sad mischance those portals are badly cared for, then keep the Old Guard still in the chair, until such breaches are repaired.

Brother Abell also snaps his fingers, just a little, at the particular greatness of Grand Masters, intimating that they are not really so omnipotent as some are accustomed to suppose. Dodging between his two breastplates, he thus fires away:

"At the risk of encountering from some of our young, but apparently very *ancient* brethren, a further shower of 'Ancient Landmarks,' and 'Young America,' we declare that upon this point, no more than upon some others, have we any faith in those 'inherent rights' of Grand Mas-

ters, which elevate them so high above the body creating them, as to render them entirely independent and utterly irresponsible for their acts. We consider a Grand ▭ in these days as simply the Legislature of the Craft, and as it is the Supreme Authority, beyond which there is no tribunal where an appeal can be maintained, it seems a very absurdity that one man, the temporary officer of its own elevation, should be permitted, unquestioned, to declare upon what subjects it shall or shall not deliberate, and with despotic power to pronounce and maintain his single opinion in opposition, as it may be, to the united voice of the body which created him. We believe it should be the proper province of the Grand Master, when the Masonic senate is in session, to preside over and preserve order during its deliberations, but that *its* will and not *his*, should be the law. Thus, we think, there would be sound reason in such a provision of the organic laws, as would do away with that present generally acknowledged doctrine of the supremacy of Grand Masters, which had its origin probably during the same period that gave birth to the equally sensible proposition, that 'the King can do no wrong.'"

Brother Abell is an awful good democrat, and evidently lives *in "these days,"* as particularly contrasted with that "period" which belonged to an earlier portion of the history of things. But while we are also ardent admirers of Washington, Jefferson, "and the balance," and stand committed to the consequences of such admiration, we are most decidedly opposed to democratizing the Masonic government, even if a bramble is found to be King. Let the old elective monarchy stand. And here, Bro. Abell, we propose to shoot R.·. W.·. Bro. Mackey at you, for he isn't afraid (as we are) of your panoply. In enumerating the Landmarks of the Order, Bro. Mackey says:

"The government of the Fraternity by a presiding officer called a *Grand Master*, who is elected from the body of the Craft, is a fourth Landmark of the Order. Many persons ignorantly suppose that the election of the Grand Master is held in consequence of a law or regulation of the Grand ▭. Such, however, is not the case. The office is indebted for its existence to a Landmark of the Order. Grand Masters are to be found in the records of the Institution long before Grand ▭ were established; and if the present system of legislative government by Grand ▭ were to be abolished, a Grand Master would still be necessary. In fact, although there has been a period within the records of history, and indeed of very recent date, when a Grand ▭ was unknown, there never has been a time when the Craft did not have their Grand Master."

In notes to the text are the following additional remarks:

"The mode and time of his election is, in modern times, prescribed by a regulation of the Grand ▭, it is true, but the office itself exists independently of any such regulation. When installed into office, it is not as the Grand Master of the Grand ▭, but as the Grand Master of Masons. The earliest references to the office in English Masonry, is in the time of the Emperor Carausius in the third century, who, as Preston states, granted the Masons a charter, and commanded Albanus to preside over them in person as Grand Master."

Bro. Mackey enumerates the prerogatives of the Grand Master as "Landmarks." Among them are:—"To preside over every assembly of the Craft wheresoever and whensoever held"—in Grand ▭, or Blue ▭, whenever he may happen to be present, it is his right to take the East and assume the gavel. "To grant Dispensa-

tions for conferring Degrees at irregular times,"—and upon this is remarked: "This prerogative he possessed in common with all Masters before the enactment of the law requiring a probation, and *as no statute can impair his prerogative*, he still retains the power, although the Masters of ▭ no longer possess it." His power "to give Dispensations for opening and holding ▭," and "to make Masons at sight," are other enumerated Landmarks. In England the Grand Master's chair is called "the throne."

CANADA, 1857.

We have before us a pamphlet containing the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Canada, from its formation the 10th day of October, 1855, to and including the Grand Annual Communication held in Montreal, in July, 1857. The Proceedings of July last, we much regret to say, have not been received. This is the more to be lamented, as since our Communication in January last, a union between the Independent Grand ▭ and the body styling itself the Ancient Grand ▭, has been effected, the ▭ composing the latter coming into the former. We hoped to be able to give some of the particulars attending this interesting event, but can do no more than reiterate to our brethren here, the glad news of reconciliation, peace and *unity* among the Craft in Canada.

M.·. W.·. Bro. Wm. M. Wilson, Grand Master, and R.·. W.·. Bro. Thos. B. Harris, Grand Secretary, were re-elected.

DELAWARE, 1857, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Wilmington, June 27.

No address, no report upon Foreign Correspondence, no business of general interest. All the Grand Officers marked *pro tem.* except Secretary, Treasurer and Tyler. Annual election held.

Special Communication for installation of Grand Officers, October 13th, officers again marked *pro tem.* except Senior Warden and Senior Deacon. The officers elected were installed with the exception of the G.·. M.·. and G.·. S.·. W.·., who were absent.

We would like to know where our Delaware brethren got the design for that figure, which, from its connection, is supposed to represent the word "▭." First, a delicate black dot; then a white hole round it; thirdly, a black square round the hole; fourthly, a white space; fifthly, a black line with the corners slightly flattened. The whole character is about the size of an early June pea, and is set in the printed line "cornering."

Since writing the above, we have received the Proceedings of this Grand ▭ up to the 17th day of August last. The Annual Communication was held at Wilmington, June 28. Grand Master, D.·.

G.·. Master, S.·. G.·. Warden, S.·. G.·. Deacon, and J.·. G.·. Deacon, all marked *pro tem.*, though the D.·. G.·. M.·. presided as G.·. M.·. The new Hall was dedicated. A correspondence between this Grand ▭ and the Grand ▭ of Ireland, which is given in the Proceedings, show that certain Masons had memorialized the Grand ▭ of Ireland for a warrant to institute a ▭ in Delaware. The matter was referred to a committee. The annual election took place, and on the 7th of July a Special Communication was held for the installation of officers.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 1857.

Semi-Annual Communication, May 5. The Proceedings show for this Communication a short address from the Grand Master upon local subjects. An interesting correspondence between P.·. G.·. M.·. B. B. French. and P.·. G.·. M.·. C. L. Frailey, upon the presentation to the latter, of a P.·. G.·. Master's Jewel, the report of the committee making the presentation, and some other matters of a local character.

Special Communication, May 26, 1857, for the purpose of attending the funeral obsequies of M.·. W.·. Bro. Frailey. The services of the Order were performed by Grand Master Geo. C. Whiting, and M.·. W.·. Bro. French made a few appropriate remarks.

Special Communication June 24, 1857, for the purpose of repairing to Mount Vernon, and there celebrating the anniversary of St. John the Baptist. The record bears witness to a pleasant and profitable time. M.·. W.·. Bro. French and Rev. Bro. A. F. Neville Rolfe, delivered addresses. Bro. Rolfe says:

"To become a Mason is within the power of any respectable and well-ordered citizen who possesses, in the judgment of the Order, the requisite qualifications—but to live a Mason's life is a far different matter. Those symbols which we revere, and which speak to us great truths by which our conduct both in hours of labor and refreshment should be regulated, have deeper and holier philosophy in them than at first we conceive, when light breaks in upon the Reign of Darkness; they each speak to us of an operative Masonry upon the soil of evil hearts, and there is nothing speculative about it at all."

The address of Bro. French was upon WASHINGTON, whose very name, the brother says, "*is an existence still among us.*" Taking for his text that wise apothegm of our eloquent brother, Albert Pike—"*the dead govern, the living only obey*"—Bro. French shows its truth by instancing the power of Washington's influence and example over not only his successors in the Presidential chair, but the hearts of all the people unto the present time.

Another Special Communication July 29, 30, and 31. This was for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the Ebenezer M. E. Church, in Washington. The first day's session was to arrange

preliminaries; on the second day it rained, and on the third day the stone was laid with the usual ceremonies.

Special Communication, August 16th, to attend the funeral obsequies of the W.·. S.·. G.·. Deacon, S. F. Rand, who was also the W.·. M.·. of B. B. French ▭, No. 15.

Grand Annual Communication, Nov. 3. M.·. W.·. Bro. Whiting in his address notices the deaths of P.·. G.·. M.·. Frailey and W.·. S. F. Rand, saying of the former, "Few men ever lived whose foibles so little needed to have cast over them the broad mantle of charity," and of the latter, "To none, in love and veneration of our Order, and rectitude of life and conduct, did this Brother stand second."

After noticing the grand visitations of the year, the Grand Master says: "I am qualified to say, therefore, that our Order was never in a more prosperous and healthy condition than at present. It is exceedingly gratifying to be able to observe, that during the year, no brother has been arraigned for unmasonic conduct, and that no occasion has risen for any interference on my part to preserve the integrity or reputation of the Fraternity. Numbers of good and true men have been added to our ranks, and charity has been freely dispensed to needy and worthy."

A committee previously appointed to examine the Constitutions of the several Subordinate ▭, reported "that they found every code, including their Rules of Order, to conflict in some one or more particulars with either the Constitution of this Grand ▭, or with the ancient usages of Masonry;" and they recommend that the G.·. ▭ adopt a uniform code. A committee was appointed for that purpose, and the code reported by them appears in the Proceedings.

Upon the election of officers, we notice that a committee of one from each ▭ was appointed to nominate the Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Deacons, Grand Sword Bearer, and Grand Pursuivant, and the nominations were unanimously confirmed.

The Committee on Correspondence notice the Proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Bodies, culling items of interest and value from each. We like the fraternal spirit of this review. Not a word in it but such as becometh a brother. Did your committee feel tempted to recriminate upon any one in unbrotherly language, we should hesitate before asking the Grand ▭ to devote its funds in giving publicity to such "spots in our feasts of charity."

FLORIDA, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Tallahasse, January 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Grand Master T. Y. Henry's Address was very short, covering

but little over one page of the published Proceedings. He announces the death of Bro. D. W. McCranie, Senior Grand Warden; says he granted two Dispensations for new ▭ during the year, and informs the Grand ▭ that "it is expected that every brother will use his best endeavors to promote the prosperity of the Craft in the discharge of the business which will come before us."

Bro. Morris, D.·. G.·. M.·. of Kentucky, was present, delivered an address, which is published with the Proceedings, sold forty complete sets of his Universal Masonic Library, for two thousand dollars, and was voted "an appropriate jewel," to be procured by the Grand Secretary. From the address, which is sprinkled with three different specimens of Bro. Morris' spontaneous sort of rythm, we make the following extract:

"Freemasonry in the United States presents at one view an aggregate of more than *four thousand* ▭. This conception embraces many details; 4000 copies of the Book of the Holiest, opened and cherished at each monthly convocation; 4000 symbols, expressive of Deity, gleaming from the Masonic East; 4000 founts of charity, never exhausted, though continually drawn upon; 4000 workshops wherein rude normal masses are transformed to shapely blocks and columns set for honorable place in the Master's plan—surely, never were there statistical tables like those which yield such sweet contemplation. It is not strange that even the humblest poet of the Craft was aroused by this consideration, to express himself in rhyme, thus,"—and away gallops our poet through four easy going verses like the following:

"Four thousand lights in Mason's halls,
Are gleaming in our eyes;
Four thousand emblems on our walls
Tell whence that gleaming is:
And when the portals ope to pass
The humble seeker in,
The voice of prayer pervades the place,
And proves the light divine."

"The actual division of this great aggregate of ▭," continues Brother Morris, as he dismounts from his charming pacer, "is this: Alabama 64, California 101, Connecticut 70, Delaware 10, District of Columbia 10, Florida 25, Georgia 200, Illinois 200, Indiana 205, Iowa 85, Kansas 8, Kentucky 310, Louisiana 87, Maine 78, Maryland 29, Massachusetts 96, Michigan 60, Minnesota 12, Mississippi 189, Missouri 152, Nebraska 5, New Hampshire 25, New Jersey 41, New York 351, North Carolina 116, Ohio 256, Oregon 10, Pennsylvania 240, Rhode Island 12, South Carolina 61, Tennessee 210, Texas 90, Vermont 37, Virginia 159, Wisconsin 50.

"This table," says a note, "was true up to 1827. The increase in ▭ in 36 Grand Jurisdictions since that period cannot be less than 400."

Minnesota has now 24 chartered ▭, double the amount given in the above table.

The Grand ▭ passed the following resolution by a unanimous vote:

"That no Dispensation or charter shall be granted to any set of Masons unless the Master and Wardens named in the application be first examined as to their proficiency in the three Degrees, by the Master and Wardens, or ▭ recommending them, and that said examination shall not be considered sufficient unless the entire ceremony of opening and closing the ▭, with all the lectures of each Degree are fully and completely exhibited in open ▭, and such satisfactory examination be endorsed on the application."

The Constitution of the Grand ▭ was amended by striking out the words "and no Grand Officer shall be eligible to election to the same office for a longer period than two consecutive years, except the Grand Secretary, Treasurer and Grand Chaplain;" a suggestive as well as wise amendment.

The labors of the Committee on Propositions and Grievances were confined to the consideration of applications from ▭ for remission of dues.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is an Appendix of one hundred and thirty-three pages, reviewing the Proceedings of 37 Grand ▭. We join in the regret that Minnesota was not among the number. Bro. Thomas Brown is chairman of the committee and the writer of the report. He comments freely upon the different subjects noticed, and we like much of his review. But sometimes he appears to have forgotten the work in which he was engaged, and to have allowed "the old man Adam" to prevail mightily in him.

Over 30 pages of the report are devoted to New York.

The address of the Grand Master is quoted from, one or two matters are noticed, and *then* the New York committee on Correspondence get particularly attended to, and the "bad blood" begins to bubble. We do not say that New York did not *deserve* a rebuke or a correction—we do not care anything about the merits of the controversy in this connection. We do think, however, that the cause of Masonry is not advanced, nor is Masonic literature enriched, nor are Grand ▭ Proceedings made valuable, by the style of refutation and recrimination indulged in by our brother.

Several pages of the report are devoted to the discussion of what religious tests may be required, and what belief is requisite, when one applies for admission to our Order; and the summing up is as follows:

"We say again, the only declaration of faith necessary on the part of the candidate, before initiation, is the profession of belief and trust in God. But we also say that a man who *declares* his disbelief in the Divine authenticity of the Holy Bible, cannot be made a Mason."

We subscribe to that, because the moment he became a Brother among us, and amenable to the laws and edicts of our Order, it would be necessary to try him for contumacy. We believe that great Light contains the edicts of our Supreme Grand Master; and if a contempt for the decrees of our temporal "Grand East" subjects the offender to the severest discipline, "of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy who had trampled under foot" the decrees of Jehovah!

GEORGIA, 1857.

Grand Annual Communication at Macon, October 27, 28, and 29.

The address, or, as the Proceedings have it, the report of the Grand Master, gives an account of his labors and decisions during the year. He granted one dispensation to initiate, pass and raise a candidate who was serving as an officer in the army of the United States, without the usual delay required by the By-Laws of the □.

He "found it necessary to remind the ⊏⊐ that their minutes record what has been done, whether right or wrong, and a re-consideration (of the minutes,) is inadmissible except to correct a mistake in the *record* of that action." The following remarks are brotherly and fitting:

"The deep financial gloom which has so suddenly overshadowed the land, should admonish us to look around upon the Craft and ascertain how much of real assistance we may be able to render in accordance with the great tenets we profess, and how we may be best able to strengthen the precarious position of such as may be in need, with the greatest benefit to them and the least injury to the claims of others upon our kind offices. Unexpected disaster may overtake, and unforeseen calamity overwhelm the most prudent and sagacious, and while the past history of our race testifies to man's improvement and advance in civilization, in knowledge, in refinement, in power, but few, if any of the great agents in this increasing progress have been adopted as instruments to increase the ability of the Order to do good.

The Grand Master in enumerating his decisions, says: "Touching the qualification of service as Warden as a prerequisite to the office of Master, I decided it to be now unnecessary." And he gives his reasons at some length, prefacing his argument as follows:

"The idea that a *service* as Warden for a longer or shorter time, was a necessary prerequisite to the office of Master, has arisen from a misconception of the ancient charges. * * * * * * *

"It is material to note that among the ancient writings of the Craft, it is recorded, that in the reign of Edward III, (in the 14th century,) a regulation was made requiring 'that for the future, at the making or admission of a brother, the Ancient Charges should be read by the Master or *Warden*.' At this period Warranted ⊏⊐ were unknown. A sufficient number of Masons assembled together as suited their own convenience, with the assent of the civil authority, opened ⊏⊐ and *made* Masons. In 1717 the Grand □ of England prohibited this indiscriminate assemblage, &c. * *

"For a period of four hundred years, ⊏⊐ were held by Masters and Wardens, and during the greater portion, if not all of this period, what we now call the Fellow Crafts' Degree and Master Masons' Degree, could only be obtained in Grand □; (see Regulation XIII,) and a brother possessed of a Master's Degree was qualified to preside in a □ thus congregated. If the true construction be that no brother can be Master until he has *served* as Warden, there being no period of service defined, the requisition will be complied with by filling the station of either of the Wardens, and repeating a part of the opening or closing ceremony. I am persuaded that the charge has a deeper and more important meaning, and the requisites of the two offices were designedly stated in different and inconvertible terms.

"'No brother can be a Warden until he has *passed the part* of a Fellow Craft,' that is, no Entered Apprentice can be a Warden, even in a □ of Entered Apprentices; such ⊏⊐ being the only ones then known; Fellow

Crafts being admitted only in the Grand □. It is singular that the technical import of the words, *'passed the part of a Fellow Craft*, should have been so long overlooked, considering the phrase is in constant use at this day. 'Nor a Master until he has *acted* as a Warden.' Where! In the Grand □ where he was made a Master, and his bearing the jewel of the Junior Warden at the time of his elevation to the Degree of Master, is incontestible evidence that he is *acting* as Warden."

Now we confess that we cannot possibly understand wherein consists that degree of *necessity* for getting round the usually received interpretation of an "Ancient Charge," which will force us into such novel positions as the above. Unfortunately for the success of M.·. W.·. Bro. Rockwell's theory in this jurisdiction, we are interdicted from practicing that system of "*acting* as Warden," which is alluded to by him, nor are we taught to believe it was practiced anciently. But while we will not yield to any brother in strength of desire that Masters of ▭ should be the very best men to be found in the □, we repeat the warning—Look well to the East and West!—and continue your Master another year rather than abolish those guards which "the wisdom of our predecessors" established as landmarks of our Order.

The D.·. G.·. Master of the 3d district, R.·. W.·. Bro. Samuel Lawrence, in an interesting report, announces among other decisions made by him, that "the imposing of fines by the □ [for non-attendance] is not contrary to Masonic law or usage," and the refusal to pay them makes the offender liable to discipline. He acknowledges that "carried away by modern authorities," he had held differently until a fuller investigation convinced him there was nothing in the Constitutions of Masonry forbidding fines, but that, "on the contrary, in the present Constitutions of the Grand ▭ of England, Scotland, and Ireland, fines are expressly recognized and provided for." While we are not prepared to advocate the propriety of adopting a system of fines "for neglect of duty or irregular conduct," or for non-attendance at our Communications, we confess to having at times maliciously wished for some such "thorn in the flesh" of those who have, month after month, preferred the Odd Fellow's to the Mason's □, because it saved their paying twenty-five cents as the penalty for absence.

Our Georgia brethren have a "Southern Masonic Female College," located at Covington. The committee "congratulates the Grand □ and the Masonic Fraternity upon the cheering prospects and high position the College has attained;" announces the collection of $31,000 as "contributions from the Masonic Fraternity for the purpose of providing such necessary buildings as are needful for the prosperity of the college;" recommend the collection of "more," and offer a series of resolutions for the good of the Institution.

The Grand Secretary makes the following gratifying announcement, in a note to the published Proceedings:

"At the convening of this Grand Communication, there were 204 chartered ▭ working in this jurisdiction, all of whom, so far as my information extends, were in their usual prosperous and healthy condition, and have paid *all their dues* to this Grand ▭."

Eleven charters were granted during the Communication.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence report upon the Proceedings of 32 Grand ▭, Minnesota for 1857, among them. The report covers only twelve pages, notices of the different jurisdictions being very brief.

INDIANA, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Indianapolis, May 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.

From the address of the Grand Master we learn that the only complete set of the Proceedings of this Grand ▭ from its organization, now in existence, is in the hands of Bro. C. Moore, of Cincinnati, who proposes to reprint them, as a private enterprise. During the preceding year, fourteen dispensations for ▭ were granted, and two ▭ surrendered. We concur most emphatically in the declaration of the Grand Master, that "there is no place in a ▭ but should be filled with a bright Mason and a *good* man," and also in the further assertion that "when it can truthfully be said that each and every member is a bright Mason, the ▭ will then have an opportunity to select the *best men* for officers, and not be compelled to confine their choice to the brightest, as in many cases they are now bound to do. The most intelligent Masons are not always the best calculated to rule and govern the ▭, or to sustain the dignity of the Institution." When a bright Mason and a good man consent to inhabit the same body,

"Lo, what a glorious sight appears!"

The Commissioner of the Grand ▭ Hall, in his report, expresses the hope that in one year more, or at most two, he will have the pleasure of presenting to the Grand ▭ of Indiana, with which he has "been connected for more than thirty years, a clear and indefeasible title, free of all incumbrance, for the property, worth fifty thousand dollars."

The "New Regulations," providing for the trial of Grand Masters and Masters of ▭, and which we quoted in our last January's report, were adopted by the Grand ▭. Indiana, in her legislation upon this matter, must please our California brother, for we find from the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, that the

Grand ▭ provides for an appeal from the decision of the Grand Master.

A committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's address relating to the purchase of Mount Vernon, call the proposition of levying a general contribution throughout the country, "rather the reverse of *modest*," as Virginia herself is the "Reversioner" to whom the title will eventually pass; but at the same time, for the sake of getting "the remains of the Father of his Country" from the custody of "one so unworthy of the sacred charge as the present owner of Mount Vernon, they would be willing to recommend the proposed contribution to all who are able to pay it as individuals." The report was concurred in.

This Communication of the Grand ▭ was graced by a visitation from M.·. W.·. Horace M. Stoakes, Grand Master of the Grand ▭ of Ohio, and M.·. W.·. Philip M. Swigert, Grand Master; M.·. W.·. Henry Wingate, and M.·. W.·. Theo. N. Wise, P.·. G.·. Masters; R.·. W.·. Bro. Morris, D.·. G.·. M.·., and Bro. A. C. Hodges, Grand Treasurer of the Grand ▭ of Kentucky.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence notice the Proceedings of 30 Grand ▭, in 12 pages. Our Proceedings for January last were mailed in February, and should have been received before May, but those for 1857 only are acknowledged.

KANSAS, 1857.

Grand Annual Communication at Leavenworth, Oct. 19.

The address of the Grand Master is quite lengthy. He calls attention to the subject of education, but warns the brethren against accumulating debt in any effort at building colleges, or endowing academies, exhorting them to the more practical and more excellent way of establishing common schools, feeding, clothing and comforting the child of beggary, and starting him in life by investing him with the rudiments of learning; reiterates the necessity of studying with care not only the ritual, but the laws, the history, and the literature of Masonry; favors the Grand ▭ Representative system, as proposed by New York; indulges in the belief that there could be established some universal sovereign power in Masonry, "either meeting in some locality central to the civilized world, or, like the General G.·. R.·. A.·. of our Union, itinerant;" and announces the granting of seven dispensations for new ▭. On the subject of a universal Masonic assemblage, he proposes as follows, and calls the attention of the whole Masonic world to the plan, saying he has thought much upon the subject, and desires to hear an expression from the Brotherhood:

"Let us come together," says he, "in one imposing, grand, magnificent

camp-meeting, there to have a consultation upon the subject of establishing a common head, which shall be known and recognized throughout the world, by every nation, tongue, and people, as the great centre to which the Craftsmen of every land may come, accredited by his particular Brotherhood; and I now propose that on the 24th day of June, A. D. 1870, A.·. L.·. 5870, delegates from every Grand ▭ in the world, and from every body of Masons, however hidden in the distant wilds, who may see proper to send in their representatives, assemble at the city of York, England, once more to re-unite the scattered Brotherhood, and join with the descendants there and elsewhere of the worthy Craftsmen, who on the same spot, 950 years before, re-organized, in Grand Communication, that Brotherhood who are known as Ancient York Masons."

This portion of the address was referred to a Committee on Foreign Correspondence. The *magnificence* of the idea is apparent, and we can not refuse to admire that equanimity of mind, which will allow a revel in such delightful anticipations at a moment when "times are *so hard*."

The Grand Secretary reports the number of members of ▭ at 170, and the Grand ▭ dues at $85.

LOUISIANA, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at New Orleans, February 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

The Grand Master, in alluding to what he calls the "hackneyed subject" of exercising continued and increasing caution in the admission of applicants for our mysteries, says:

"Candor compels us to admit that our strength has not been increased in proportion to our numbers, and that we annually introduce into the edifice material that ought to be rejected. * * * *It is absolutely necessary that the attention of the Fraternity be frequently called to the subject.*"

This subject would not be "hackneyed" were it not that the severest breach ever made into our honored Institution, has been made through the inner door—the door by which the novitiate enters. Addresses have been delivered, and lectures written, to sound the note of warning in every jurisdiction, and your committee will make but one suggestion here—first laying it down as a conceded fact that no ▭ will ever prosper under an inattentive or insufficient Master. Let every member of a Subordinate ▭, in his selection of its three principal officers, turn his back to the looking-glass, and then search for the brothers who are best able and willing to devote to the ▭ all the knowledge and attention which it may demand. The vouching of a committee of investigation should never be sufficient to pass an applicant's name through the south, west, and east gates of our temple. Let those be Wardens and Masters who will make it their business to be as strict when the ballot box passes them as they are required to be with the passing Craftsman.

The Grand Master reports serious trouble with three ▭ which have renounced allegiance to the Grand ▭, two of them assuming

to act under the authority of a body "claiming existence as a Supreme Council of the thirty-third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, now familiarly known as the Scottish Rite." These [] filed notice of their withdrawal, but did not return their charters. The Grand Secretary was instructed to demand the charters, but received a positive answer from only one, whose Master replied, "that he could not give it up—that it was paid for by them and was their property—and their lawyers had advised them not to give it up." The three [] are St. Andrew, No. 5, Perseverance, No. 4, and Polar Star, No. 1.

Those brethren of the latter who remained faithful to their allegiance to the Grand [] were empowered to organize the [] and receive the charter, and they organized accordingly. The other two [] seem to have been blotted from the list, and trials of all the seceding members were ordered.

The Grand Secretary reports under that jurisdiction one hundred and twelve [], ninety-eight chartered and fourteen under Dispensation; of which twenty-five had not paid their dues, ten had made returns. This report includes Polar Star and Perseverance [], both of which paid up on their withdrawal. Eight charters were granted, and four Dispensations were continued.

The Committee on General Purposes, Appeals and Grievances, had in review over a dozen cases, brought up from Subordinate [].

Efforts are being made to establish a Masonic Female School at Bastrop, in that State. Considerable progress is reported, and the Grand [] passed a resolution approving the undertaking. No pecuniary aid was asked or granted.

The Grand Treasurer reporting upon their financial condition, says:

"Should we be successful in paying our notes in March next, our then only liability will be a series of notes falling due March 4, 1859, (amount $12,485,03,) with exception of balances due [], which can be arranged at convenience. When these two payments are made, the Grand [] will be in possession of property worth, at the lowest estimate, $60,000."

The Grand Secretary announces in a note, that the amount due in March, 1858, some twelve thousand dollars, was "fully and promptly met, without borrowing one dollar;" and we heartily concur with him that such a fact is truly creditable to the Fraternity in that State.

The report from Louisiana Relief [], No. 1—a [] composed of the Masters and Wardens of such [] as hold membership in it, and organized for the purposes indicated by its name—shows that during the year 1857, the sum of $2,372.20 was expended upon destitute Masons, widows and orphans, hailing from 26 different jurisdictions. Of this amount Louisiana herself drew the largest sum,

$589.50; California next, $370; and Connecticut, the smallest, $1.00. Scotland stands charged with $132.50, France $66.00, Netherlands $20.00, Ireland $12.00, and England $9.00. We notice in the Proceedings of other Grand Bodies, that many of them have refunded the amount bestowed upon those hailing from their jurisdictions. Minnesota, we are happy to state, does not appear in the list of the relieved.

The report of the Committee on Correspondence is a document of sixty-six pages, and was submitted by R.·. W.·. D.·. G.·. M.·. Amos Adams. He acknowledges the receipt of documents from about all the jurisdictions of the known world, and lays before the Louisiana brethren a mass of information, which ought to make them bright Masons in all that pertains to the present standing and opinions of the Craft, wheresoever dispersed. Minnesota receives a fraternal notice, and our Proceedings for 1857 are quoted as of the right kind. The resolution passed in accordance with the suggestion of our Grand Master relative to the duties of a committee of inquiry upon petitions, is given, and Bro. Adams adds:

"When committees act up to the above resolution, and ▭ enforce a rigid inquiry, and will be satisfied with nothing short of such positive qualities as required above, then Masonry will take a vastly higher stand and extend a most powerful influence for good."

The committee say of the resolution of the Ohio Grand ▭, requiring a distinct avowal of a belief in the Divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, on the part of applicants, that they conceive that its adoption "is contrary to the teachings of the Order from time immemorial. Masonry requires all its votaries to profess the belief in one only living and true God, and upon that platform we can all meet."

In noticing an address delivered on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of St. John's ▭, No. 2, at Providence, Rhode Island, the committee allude to the attacks suffered by the Craft from the political anti-masonry of 1829 to 1834, and say:

"Those who have joined the Order since that time, and indeed Masons in the Southern States, know but little of the persecutions to which Masons were subjected during that period, in New York and the New England States. It was a time that tried a Mason's faith, and made many strong men quail beneath the blast; many apostatized and joined the ranks of the enemy. Rhode Island, it seems from the address, had her full share to endure. The Legislature, in 1831, appointed a committee to investigate the grounds and extent of charges brought against Freemasonry and Freemasons in that State. This committee, in a report of two hundred and twenty pages, fully exonerates Masonry from the criminal charges brought against it, but recommended the discontinuance of the Institution. The Grand ▭, in August of that year (1832) declined disbanding, and passed resolutions to that effect, declaring at the same time that it is not Masonry they are contending against—that was mere pretext—*political power* was their object. In 1833, the Anti-Masons presented a memorial to the Legislature to take away the charters of the Masonic Institutions

in that State. The Grand ▭ appeared before them by consent, St. John's ▭ also appeared by committee. Ten days the battle was waged before that body, when the Legislature repealed six charters, leaving sixteen unrepealed, and passed a law forbidding extra-judicial oaths. The Grand ▭ at last yielded to the blast, and in 1834 resolved to surrender their charter and recommended to the Subordinates to do the same. St. John's ▭ during all this time of severe trial, stood firm in her integrity. She passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That it be considered very disreputable for any individual member of this ▭ to express a wish, or speak in any way favorable, to giving up our rights of charter.

"In answer to the recommendation of the Grand ▭ to surrender their charters, they use the following language: 'We respect the opinions of the Grand ▭, but we also respect ourselves, and a proper degree of self-respect prompts us to refuse to surrender what we have not forfeited.' The precise language was:

"'The State has given us a charter *in perpetui*, if they want it, let them come and take it; we will not, like cringing criminals, carry it to them.'

"The Legislature did not come after it, and it is still in the ▭. Long may it continue there. Among the apostates were four of the clergy. Lorenzo Dow, a preacher of world-wide fame, and quite eccentric, was an ardent Mason. Speaking of these apostate clergy, in an address before a ▭ in Pawtucket, he said: 'If these men die the death of common men, I shall be tempted to lessen my confidence in a *Divine Providence*.' Three weeks after, one hanged himself, and about three months after, the other three committed a crime for which they were degraded from the ministry, and one excluded from the pale of decent society."

The world-renowned Mason, Bro. Albert Pike, known among the profane as the "Poet-Lawyer of Arkansas," delivered an address before the Grand ▭ upon "The evil consequences of schisms and disputes for power in Masonry, and of jealousies and dissensions between Masonic Rites." It is published in the Proceedings before us. Forty pages of the address are devoted to the morals and philosophy taught by our Order, and your committee are free to confess that they would not object to a fatality which should compel every ▭ member in this jurisdiction to commit to memory the whole forty, page after page. We cannot give a synopsis of it, for it will not further condense. We hardly know how to quote from it, for each one of the "golden apples" of which it is composed, seems the fairest only so long as we look at no other. In desperation, however, we grasp at the following among the many, many things which Masonry says:

"It says to every Mason, it should be our earnest desire so to live, and deal, and act, that when it comes to us to die, we shall be able to say, and our consciences to adjudge, that no man on earth is poorer because we are richer; that what we have, we have honestly earned or purchased; and that no man, and more especially no widow or orphan, can stand up before God, and claim that by the rules of equity administered in His great Chancery, this house in which we die, this land that we devise among our heirs, this money which enriches those who survive to bear our name, is his or hers, and not ours, and we in that Great Forum are only their Trustees. For it is most certain that God is just, and will sternly enforce every such trust; and to all whom we despoil, to all whom we defraud, to all from whom we take anything whatever without full and fair equivalent, He will decree an adequate and ample compensation.

"'Be careful, then,' it says to every brother, 'that thou receive no

wages, here or elsewhere, that are not thy due. For if thou dost, thou wrongest some one by taking that which in God's Chancery belongs to him; and whether that which thou takest thus be wealth or rank, or influence or reputation.' * * * * * * *

"Our lecturers say to us: The true Mason labors for the benefit of those that are to come after him, and for the advancement and improvement of his race. That is a poor ambition which contents itself within the limits of a single life. All men who deserve to live at all, desire to survive their own funerals and to live afterwards in the good that they have done mankind rather than in the writing that lasts even the longest upon the souls of human memories. Most men desire to leave some *work* behind them, that may outlive their day and brief generation. That is an instinctive impulse, given by God, and often found in the rudest human heart, the surest proof of the soul's immortality, and of the radical difference between man and the wisest brutes. To plant the trees that after we are dead shall shelter our children, is as natural as to love the shade of those our fathers planted.

"In his influences that survive him, man becomes immortal before the general resurrection. The thoughts of the past are the laws of the present and future. That which we say and do, if its effects last not beyond our lives, is of slight importance. That which shall live when we are dead, as part of the great body of law enacted by the dead, is the only act worth doing, the only thought worth uttering. The desire to do something that shall benefit the world, when neither praise nor obloquy will reach us where we sleep soundly in the grave, is the noblest ambition entertained by man.

"To sow, that others may reap; to work and plant for those that are to occupy the earth when we are dead; to project our good influences far into the future, and to live beyond our time; to rule as the Kings of Thought over men who are yet unborn; to bless with the glorious gifts of Truth, and Light, and Liberty, those who may never know the name of the giver, nor care in what grave his unregarded ashes repose, is the true office of a Mason and the proudest destiny of a man.

"We read in Masonic Monitors, of *Speculative* Masonry, as distinguished from *Operative* Masonry. The word '*Speculative*,' as applied to Masonry, is of modern coinage. I confess I shall be glad to see it disused. It always seems to me to involve the idea of talking much and doing nothing. Masonry is *not* speculative, but *operative*. It is *work*. Good Masonry is to do the work of life. Its precepts are meant for practical use. It was not meant for the lazy and luxurious, the indifferent or selfish. To long for the regeneration of the human race, and entertain a philanthropy that embraces the whole world, is very pleasant and very easy. The difficulty is, that when Masonry is no more than that, the field to be cultivated is so extensive that no other crop is raised in any other corner of it than weeds. It is a laudable ambition to wish to be the benefactor of the world, or, at the least, of a nation; but most men can expect to be so only through the influences they can exert within their own limited circle; and it would be too much to expect your grand philanthropist, with universal Humanity for his client, to occupy himself with the pitiful interests of his own neighborhood, and with the eradication of the evils that grow like poisonous rank weeds around his own door. 'The true Mason, on the contrary, occupies himself with what is near at hand. Right there he finds enough to do. His Masonry is to live a true, honorable, upright, affectionate life, from the motive of a good man. He finds evils enough, near him and around him, to be corrected; evils in trade, evils in social life, neighborhood abuses; wrongs swarming everywhere, to be righted; follies cackling everywhere, to be annihilated.' 'Masonry,' it has been well said, 'cannot in our age forsake the broad way of life. She must walk in the open street, appear in the crowded square, and teach men by her deeds, her *life*, more eloquent than any lips.'"

We feel like apologizing for not making still further extracts. May what is given set us to thinking afresh, and not only that, but

may it set us to *doing*, with our might, according to the designs of the Great Master of all. "*For*," says Bro. Pike, in another place, "*we never know the importance of the act we do.*"

MAINE, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Portland, May 4, 5 and 6.

The Grand Master in his address congratulates the assembled brethren as recipients of so many blessings from the bountiful Giver of all good, "and upon the prosperity of the Craft;" and he notices as "one of the most interesting features of our Order, that we can for the time being divorce ourselves from all our private differences of opinion in relation to the affairs of the day, and come together, at this, our annual gathering, from our various places of abode, however distant, animated by a common feeling of brotherly regard for each other, and a common zeal and interest in the welfare of our beloved Institution." He earnestly calls the attention of the Grand ▭ to the importance of a knowledge of the standard Masonic literature, saying truly, and tersely, "If we have a literature that is worth preserving, we have one which is worth diffusing among the members of the Fraternity." The troubles arising from non-affiliation, are noticed, and those also which naturally result from the prosperity of our Institution. "As it is one of the infirmities of human nature that men judge of an Institution like ours by the most unworthy of its members, it will follow that the low moral rank of such members in the community will characterize and mould public opinion, with reference to the whole Masonic Body." It is indeed a sad state of affairs, when our *good* men have to be used to salt the Order to keep it from offending the nostrils of the world.

The death of Past Grand Master John Miller, is announced, and a tribute is paid to his virtues. Blessed is the memory of those of whom it may be said as of him, "He has left behind him a bright christian example for our imitation, which I trust we shall all delight to follow."

The Grand Treasurer makes a report, in which he clothes with a goodly coat of humor, the ungainly truth that the Grand ▭ revenue does not pay expenses and liabilities. "We have to provide for the payment of $1.780, with a prospective income of $1.043," says he.

The following resolution was introduced by a committee upon the subject of non-affiliation, and was adopted:

Resolved, That in all applications for dimits, the ▭ within our jurisdiction be governed by the ancient usages and charges of our Institution, and suffer no member to withdraw, unless to form a new ▭ or join another."

The opinion has obtained in this jurisdiction—and we have advocated it—that while every brother *ought* to belong to some □," he could not be made a member of nor kept in a □ except by his own free will. We would like to back out of that position, but cannot without some good and valid reason. Our Grand □ Constitution provides that no non-affiliated Mason shall visit a □ in this jurisdiction more than three times; and also that "any Mason who does not contribute to the funds or belong to some □, shall not be entitled to join in procession, or receive assistance or Masonic burial."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence "string" their "*Pearls*," collected from the Proceedings of 34 Grand □, over fifty-two pages. Our Proceedings for 1857 and 1858 are noticed, and the address of our Grand Master complimented. Bro. Pearl says, "the Proceedings for 1858 are marked by the ability of the officers, and energy of the movements of the Craftsmen in that jurisdiction."

Upon the subject of a General Grand □, Bro. Pearl says, noticing the Virginia Proceedings:

"In a report upon the Grand Master's address, there is a paragraph devoted to it as follows: 'The subject of a General Grand □ of the U. S. * * * has never met with favor from this Grand □. We see very little good that might arise, but we should fear very great evil. Thirty families may live in happiness and peace, managing their domestic concerns in their own way, and responsible to God alone, who almost certainly would live in discord and confusion if they had annually to conform the management to the varying dictation of restless and uncongenial minds. Besides, we think it un-masonic for a Grand □ to be held in any way amenable to a higher fraternal Power: *Resolved*, That this Grand □ disapproves of a General Grand □ of the United States.' We do not discover any action on the resolution, but have supposed the action of Virginia would be adverse to the proposal, as she has always stood opposed to the General Grand Chapter. But it is somewhat singular that the committee could not give better and more substantial reasons for such a resolution. Their language seems to ignore utterly the appropriate end and aim of a General Grand □. The illustration of the thirty families indicates this. While 'managing their domestic concerns in their own way,' may not these families be profited by occasional social intercourse? May it not be well for them occasionally to meet and exchange fraternal words and acts? Would they not enjoy an occasional meeting, where matters of the highest interest to them and their children should be freely discussed, and where the attentive ear might listen to the instructive tongue? Could not they spend a day, once in three years thus without 'the troublesome dictation of uncongenial minds?' If it is un-masonic for 'a Grand □ to be held in any way amenable to a higher fraternal power,' would it be un-masonic to cultivate the fraternal spirit by the recognition of the common tie and the exalted principles inculcated in our Order, and an occasional greeting of brethren, who learn to dwell together in unity? On the principle of the Virginia committee, why not discard the Grand □? Why should the 30 or 150 □ of Virginia 'hold allegiance to a higher fraternal power than their own families?' Is it not un-masonic? Is it any less so than would be the connection with a General Grand □, framed, not to 'dictate' in the spirit of despotism, but to counsel in the spirit of fraternity."

We consider the following upon the subject so much discussed of the "Great Light of Masonry," as a just and excellent exposition

of the true position to be occupied in this self-styled christian country:

"Your committee have not been disposed to advocate the requiring of such a declaration of belief [in the Divine authority of the Holy Scriptures] before admission, or thus guarding the □ room; preferring to leave that question, as others relative to the fitness of candidates, to the investigating committees and the decisions of the ballot-box. They do, however, desire to record their conviction, that a candidate trained in a christian country, who discards the Holy Bible as the Great Light of Masonry, or is known to treat that Light as if it were darkness, and to speak reproachfully of its teachings, thereby exhibits evidence of unfitness for membership, and justifies the use of the black ballot in his rejection. * *

"But the true issue is to be secured, not by mere discussions—by edicts and resolution—but by a practical recognition by all Masons, in their life and conversation, in their relations with each other and the world around them, of the Wisdom, Strength and Beauty of that Volume which comes to us with words of cheer and encouragement when we first behold Masonic Light. Let all who acknowledge its authority, and bow before its open pages on our altar, illustrate its teachings and its spirit—we shall need little of argument to hold it forever in its place as a great Light shining in a dark world."

MASSACHUSETTS, 1857.

Quarterly Communications during the year. Grand Annual Communication, December 9, and Special Communication, December 28.

We cannot say whether the possession of these Proceedings comes through the fraternal courtesy of the Massachusetts Grand □, or is accidental. They were transmitted, a few days since, to the present by the former Grand Secretary of our Grand □, who did not recollect whether he received them by mail or was presented with them by a brother from that jurisdiction. At any rate, we are very glad to have them, and have perused them with both pleasure and profit. The address of the Grand Master, delivered at the Special Communication, December 28th, is one of the best we ever read. In announcing the granting of five Dispensations to form new ▭, he says:

"This power has been exercised only after thorough inquiry whether the qualifications of the petitioners entitle them to the important trust of founding a Masonic □. If they were members of ▭, reasonable evidence has been required to show whether they were in good standing as such; if not members, whether they had been honorably discharged from the □ with which they had been connected, and were otherwise reputable; and if they had not had affiliation, as members, with any □, whether their character merited the privilege petitioned for. Their standing in society has not been disregarded, it having been deemed necessary, in order to insure the success of a new □, that its members should have the respect of their neighbors. Attention has also been given to the locality where the petitioners resided, that it might be determined whether the extent of population promised the means of a healthy and influential □."

The whole number of brethren in affiliation with ▭ in that jurisdiction on the first day of September, 1857, is stated at 5,320; Whole number of voters in Grand □, 337. The Grand Master

announces that during the twelve months preceding, he had visited all of the 88 chartered ⊏⊐ in the State, and one of the ⊏⊐ U.·. D.·. Such faithfulness on the part of such a Grand Master, must result in great and lasting good to the Order. Speaking of the qualifications of candidates, the brethren are told as follows:

"And that should not be deemed a sufficient investigation which elicits nothing unfavorable to his reputation merely; it should not cease until the most satisfactory evidences are attained that he is affirmatively and positively a moral man. But the moral qualification of an applicant for the privileges of Freemasonry is not the only one which he must possess, for, as it is one of our objects 'to cultivate the social virtues,' it is necessary that he should be companionable and readily disposed to mix in friendly and fraternal intercourse with our members. * * * * To strike out the social and fraternal characteristics of our Institution, and to limit action to the relief of physical want, would render it unworthy of preservation; for as an instrument of collecting and dispersing poor funds, it is too costly and elaborate. * * * *

"We are called a 'Universal Brotherhood,' and it may be questioned whether, through a misunderstanding of the term, we have not impaired our prosperity and influence. Has not the idea which the term suggests, led us to open our portals too readily and widely? Men of every country, sect, and opinion,' we would accept as brethren, but surely not *all* men of every country, sect, and opinion, for if so, we should remove our barriers, and obliterate the forms and ceremonies which distinguish us as a brotherhood."

Alluding, in another place, to the objection of a committee reporting upon the subject of printing the records of the G.·. ⊏⊐, that the "funds are sacredly dedicated to the poor and indigent," Grand Master Heard says:

"To this proposition I beg to dissent most emphatically. Having already expressed my views as to the nature and objects of our Institution, I will only observe here, that though it is benevolent in its intentions and seeks to ensure morality among its members, its high object, or distinguishing characteristic is to cultivate the social virtues and bring mankind together in the bonds of brotherhood. Everything that will tend to increase its social condition should be made subservient to that end."

We like all that much, very much. There should be no competition with benevolent societies in the extent of our charities, nor with religion in making men moral. Those only who are already benevolent and moral, and who, being thus, are social and genial enough to wish to be united into "one sacred band or society of *friends* and *brothers*," should find admission among us. We have seen many moral christian men, who were zealous in doing good, with whom we should delight to sit in ⊏⊐, and whom we should glory to call brethren—just as much as we would delight to sit by an iceberg and feel proud in the possession of a faultless statue.

MARYLAND, 1857, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Baltimore, November 16, 17, 18, 19.

The Grand Master notices the unusual circumstance of this being

the fifth time the Grand ▭ had been called together since the last Annual Communication—twice to pay honors to the memory of the lamented Bro. Elisha Kent Kane; at the Semi-Annual Communication in May, and at a Special Communication in July.

"And now," he says, "we are once more assembled in Grand Annual Communication, the monuments of the tender mercy and providential care of Him, 'in whom we live, and move, and have our being.' While we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the mercy of God for the continuance of life and health, we are reminded by the vacant chair clothed in the habiliments of mourning, that one who a year ago was in our midst, has passed into eternity, no more to be seen among men. May the solemn thought that our voices must soon be hushed in death, control and direct our words and actions."

He calls the attention of the Grand ▭ to the subject of uniformity of work; to the necessity of providing more enlarged accommodations than their present hall supplies, and to the importance of the annual election of Grand Officers, announcing that under no possible circumstances would he be a candidate for re-election.

The Proceedings of the Grand ▭ were wholly of a local character. A strong and persistent effort to sell the Masonic Hall property, seems to have taken up much of the time of the session. The address was not referred to any committee, but a resolution was passed, that the Grand Lecturer should, assisted by the Grand Inspectors of the city of Baltimore, exemplify the work of the several Degrees to the Masters and Wardens of the various city ▭ at least once in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence covers forty-four pages, reviewing the Proceedings of seventeen Grand ▭. In noticing our Proceedings for 1857, Bro. McJilton seems to have entirely misapprehended your committee's allusion to Rhode Island customs. If the good brother will read again, he will find no exhibition of envy—nothing more than a "yearning of the bowels" for "those flesh pots." Didn't we say we liked that observance of *old customs?* And hasn't our brother lived long enough in the region of "Baltimore cove oysters," to learn the difference between a mere "savory remembrance," and an actual, bona fide, smoking hot clam chowder?"

Upon the subject of sectarian allusions in ▭ work, the committee say:

"Masonry does not interfere with any man's religion. It allows him to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. In the recognition of every Master Mason as a brother, and the whole Fraternity as a family, the Constitution does not admit of a question upon the subject. No Mason in taking the hand of a brother, and meeting him fraternally on the broad ground of charity, is bound to recognize and adopt his religious faith, but he is bound to respect his brother, and to entertain towards him no feeling of hostility whatever, because he may differ from

him in his religious creed. It is admitted on all hands, that Masonry is not religion, nor a substitute for religion. Why, then, should it propose to any man the manner in which he should exercise and enjoy his religious principles? There is no legislation required upon this subject, and the discussion of it had better not be introduced into our ⊟. The subject as it has been introduced into New York and laid upon the table, had as well lie there until some angel of reconciliation shall proclaim that all men hold the same creed and worship after the same form."

Semi-Annual Communication, May 10, 11, and 12.

Among the visiting brethren at this Communication we notice the names of M.·. W.·. A. T. C. Pierson, and R.·. W.·. A. C. Smith, from Minnesota. The address of the Grand Master is very brief, and the business transacted of simply local interest; but the Committee on Foreign Correspondence make an excellent report of 102 pages in length, and 21 Grand ⊟ in breadth. Bro. McJilton, the chairman, comments at length upon a variety of interesting subjects. He seems to rather side against what he calls "the *modern* requisition which is generally enforced, that a Mason should be a Warden before he can be elected to the place of Master of a □." He says the office of a Warden "is undervalued, and that, perhaps, in the very arrangement that requires a Mason to be a Warden before he can be a Master. * * * The essence of the alteration is the modern idea and use of the office, rather than in the ancient custom which allowed the Mason to be a Master, whether he had held the office of Warden or not." The brother does not say whether or not he accepts the interpretation of the expression "*acted* as Warden," which is given by the M.·. W.·. Brother Rockwell. As we can not accept it here in Minnesota, we would like to know what *else* the term may mean before assenting to the "*modern*"–*ness* of the "requisition."

Eleven pages of the report are devoted to Minnesota. The address of our Grand Master is quoted and noticed with decided marks of approbation; but the labors of your Committee on Foreign Correspondence are evidently not regarded as amounting to much beyond the mere matter of "bulk." Two of our positions, however, are quoted and dissented from. One is upon balloting for each Degree. Brother McJilton argues the necessity of arresting the advancement of the candidate at any time when he may be found unworthy, or whenever "anything is revealed to hinder his progress." "And if the impediment be not removed, let him remain ever in his waiting." We assent, most cordially, to all that the brother says, except upon the *means* to be employed in securing that delay. We object to the ballot because we think a brother Entered Apprentice has some claims upon us, which a mere candidate for initiation has not. There are no ⊟ of Entered Apprentices—no Fellow Craft's ⊟ now. The petition is received and acted upon in a □

of Master Masons, and there the record of election or rejection is made. The second and third balloting is had—if had at all—in the same □, and there the record of permission or refusal for advancement is again made. A candidate for advancement may be stopped at *any* point, by any brother who will make his objections known either to the □, or privately to the Master. It is due to the brother Entered Apprentice—it is due to the Master of the □ that the objection be made known. Not that the applicant may, in all instances, be informed of the objection, nor in any instance learn who is the objector, but to prevent caprice or revenge, or some sudden pique so trifling that shame would keep from revealing it, from finding a hidden vent through the secret ballot. Masons are mortal—"men of like passions" with other mortals. Unworthy men gain admission to our Order. They are capable of there destroying much good, of creating much trouble. We dare to believe that a good Mason —(this is a world of frailties, or that term "good Mason" would be tautology,) a Mason who lives up to his principles, would have no hesitancy, if he felt called upon to stop a brother's advancement, in saying enough to the Worshipful Master to satisfy him that good reasons for the objection existed. The committee say: "If the Entered Apprentice or the Fellow Craft be not worthy of the honor of advancement, let him be arrested, and although his position as a permanent Apprentice or Fellow Craft be an anomalous one, it is himself, not the □, that made it so, and let the consequence fall upon himself." Amen to that, but let it be indeed *himself* that made it so. Don't stop him by the secret ballot—by what we before called a nameless objection, from an unknown source—but stop him as alone he should be stopped, by stating like a man and a Mason, that an impediment exists to further progress.

The other objection that the brother takes, is to our assent to the proposition of some other committee, that there can be no Worshipful Master *pro tem.*—that the Warden is not a *pro tem.* Master when governing a □, but a Warden acting as Master, in his official capacity. It is thought "no distinction is made where a difference is apparent." We yield the point, and thank the brother for learning us not to be too hasty in adopting suggestions. One of the old charges reads as follows:

"The Wardens shall be true both to Master and Fellows, taking care of all things both within and without the □, especially in the Master's absence, *and their brethren shall obey them.*"

This misled us, and especially a version of it which is reprinted with our Constitution. On referring to the Old Regulations, however, we find that "in case of death or sickness, or necessary absence of the Master, the Senior Warden shall act as Master *pro tem.*

pore," &c. We had then no intention to "mystify things," nor have we now any desire to make a pyramid of words over such small "remains." The whole matter has our full, free, cordial assent to its being *dropped*.

Bro. McJilton pays us this compliment: [original not italicized.]

"The committee acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the G.·. ▭ of Maryland at the May Communication of 1857, and make an extract from the address of the Grand Master, *thus endorsing his views*, that it were better for Masonry to decrease in numbers, than to have her ranks filled with men of vicious or even doubtful character."

Humph! We do not *endorse* everything we quote without comment.

MISSOURI, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at St. Louis, May 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.

The Grand Master announces the death of R.·. W.·. Geo. Pettit, D.·. G.·. M.·. of 21st District, R.·. W.·. A. T. Douglass, P.·. G.·. Warden, and R.·. W.·. R. B. Dallam, P.·. G.·. Secretary, since the preceding Communication. He calls attention to the affairs of the Masonic College as being "the most important measure that will claim calm and deliberate attention" on the part of the Grand ▭, saying that he "cannot see this question in any other light than a contract between this Grand ▭ and the citizens of Lafayette county."

We find from the report of the College Committee, that the pecuniary embarrassment under which the College has so long labored, is removed, and that "the current expenses for the ensuing year will be met by the College fund proper, with a very small proportion, if any, of the contingent fund." Resolutions were adopted by the Grand ▭, "That it is expedient that the Grand ▭ of Missouri should sever her connection with the Masonic College at Lexington, and with this end in view, therefore, that the Grand Master appoint three brethren to visit the ▭ in Lexington and confer with them, and ascertain from them whether they would be willing to accept the donation of the College, and report to this Grand ▭, at its next Annual Communication, the result of such conference; and the said committee be further instructed to obtain the sanction of the Legislature of Missouri to any agreement they may enter into with the above ▭."

The Grand Master recommends the publication of the names of the members of ▭ in the printed Proceedings, and that a sufficient number of copies of the Proceedings be published, "to furnish every brother of every ▭ with a copy." Publication of members is made accordingly, and from the recapitulation of the Grand Sec-

retary, we find that 140 chartered ▭ return 5,700 members, and 16 ▭ which made no returns, are estimated to have 300 members, making 6,000 Masons affiliated in Missouri.

The Grand Master proposes the appointment of six D.·. Grand Lecturers, to act as instructed by the Grand Lecturer, for the purpose of securing more uniformity of Work. The Committee on Work recommended that the Grand Lecturer yearly attend at a specified time and place in each District, for the purpose of exemplifying the Work, giving notice thereof to the ▭. The committee say:

"If we could deal with our brethren elected to preside over Subordinate ▭, as we do with our children at school, compelling them to get their lessons, then the desired object of strict uniformity could probably be obtained. To those desirous of obtaining the legal Masonic knowledge requisite to secure uniformity of Work and Lectures, there is at present, in the opinion of your committee, ample and abundant sources of Masonic light and knowledge."

The recommendation of the committee was adopted.

Following the address of the Grand Master, are the reports from 12 D.·. G.·. Masters, the perusal of which has much interested your committee.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence cover 46 pages with their interesting and able report, noticing the Proceedings of 32 Grand Bodies. The powers of ▭ U.·. D.·. are discussed and opinions are quoted at some length. The committee say a Dispensation "is a warrant of restricted and well defined powers * * by virtue of which, for the time it is in force, a ▭ legally formed assembles from time to time, and *enters, passes and raises Masons.*" Our New Hampshire brethren have a very different idea from this, as will be seen. The committee say of the Grand Master of Indiana's recommendation relative to the trial of Grand Masters and Masters of ▭, "this is sound doctrine, and will apply equally as well to other jurisdictions." Noticing the ignorance of Masonic law displayed by a ▭ in Kentucky, where Past Masters attempted to "oust" the Junior Warden from the East, in the absence of the Master and Senior Warden, the committee say, (R.·. W.·. Bro. O'Sullivan, Chairman,) "The writer of this report, in the discharge of his duties as Grand Lecturer, was informed by the Senior Warden of a ▭ that in the absence of the W.·. Master he took the East and proceeded to open the ▭, when he was *invited* to resign the chair by two Past Masters; and he actually did so, in the belief, as they informed him, that in their presence he had no right to preside."

The committee are strong and somewhat sarcastic in their opposition to the formation of a "General Grand ▭." What will they think of a "General Grand Camp Meeting?" Minnesota is noticed, and our Grand Master's address at the Communication in January

last, is quoted from and pronounced "an exceedingly able document." The Ohio committee claim for their Grand ▭ the credit of originating the plan of having Committees on Foreign Correspondence, and the annual address from the Grand Master. A resolution for the appointment of such a committee was adopted in 1828, and in 1829 their Grand Master "submitted a communication in writing, detailing his official acts." Bro. O'Sullivan says:

"Your committee will state as a matter of interest, that as early as 1821, Indiana had a committee of the character alluded to in the report of Ohio. In 1822, the Grand ▭ of Vermont had a Committee on Communications from Foreign Grand ▭; and in 1825, the present distinguished Grand Master, Philip C. Tucker, was a member of such committee. Louisiana, District of Columbia, Kentucky and North Carolina, had such committees in 1824, and Tennessee and Missouri in 1825."

The New Hampshire committee says upon this subject:

"We are not certain that this (the N. H.) Grand ▭ can compete with that in full, for this distinguished honor; but we believe that long before 1828 the Grand Masters ot this Grand ▭ were in the practice of making their annual reports, detailing their official acts during the year, and suggesting measures for the consideration of the Grand ▭. We know that in 1808, Thomas Thompson, then Grand Master, delivered what was entitled his Valedictory Address, wherein he cautions the Craft against introducing or giving countenance to Royal Arch Masonry, 'and other fanciful Degrees,' as he termed them."

Bro. O'Sullivan castigates the Virginia Grand ▭ for denying a meritorious application from a distressed brother, for relief, on the ground that "the functions" of that Grand Body don't extend to such cases. He says: "God help thee, Bro. Floyd! you have lived too long, since you have outlived Masonic charity. DIE, OLD MASON! DIE! The rounds of that theological ladder which you once fondly looked upon, are shattered, for they are a delusion."

We notice that during the Communication, the case of an Ohio brother in distressed circumstances came before the Grand ▭ of Missouri. Thirty dollars were appropriated to relieve him. Also, that one hundred dollars was appropriated to the widow of Bro. A. Patterson, late President of the Masonic College.

MICHIGAN, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Detroit, January 13, 14 and 15.

We are glad to announce that Michigan recognizes Minnesota at last. In 1857 your committee found, amongst the mass of documents then submitted, a copy of the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ of Michigan for the year 1855, and noticed it without asking where it came from. We have since had reason to fear that it got into our jurisdiction surreptitiously and without the knowledge or consent of its author. The Proceedings for the years '56 and '57 were better looked after—none were allowed to stray within our boundaries. Upon receiving the Proceedings for the present year, we did not

dare *assume* anything until after looking at the list of Grand ⊏⊐ with which Michigan is in correspondence. It's all right—Minnesota is not only *there*, but she is noticed by the Foreign Committee.

The Grand Master gratefully acknowledges the lovingkindness of the Great Master of all; warmly congratulates the Craft upon its prosperity in Michigan; pays a tribute to the worth of P.·. G.·. M.·. E. Smith Lee, who after having filled all the principal offices from the Blue □ to the Commandery, was suddenly called from earth; announces the granting of fourteen Dispensations for new ⊏⊐; reports upon a variety of local matters; recommends further delay in recognizing the Grand □ of Canada, and closes with the hope that all things may be conducted with great harmony, and that the whole Fraternity may prosper here below and be admitted into the Grand □ of Heaven.

The Grand Lecturer reports "that the 800 officers of ⊏⊐ in this jurisdiction embody an amount of education, talent and energy rarely found in any other institution," and that "a considerable proportion of the ⊏⊐ are the owners of fine halls."

We find nothing of general interest in the transactions of this Grand Body. The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence acknowledges the receipt of "copies of the Proceedings of all except a few" of Grand ⊏⊐ in correspondence with them, and reviews them briefly without much comment.

MISSISSIPPI.

Fortieth Grand Annual Communication at Jackson, January 18, 19, 20, 21, 1858.

Mississippi is quite a long word, and yet it has only four different letters in it. The Proceedings before us, of just 500 pages, look bulky, yet the record of transactions, including a long report from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and several pages of statistics, closes at the top of page 122.

The G.·. M.·. in opening the session of the Grand □, announces that they are assembled "under the protecting ægis of the Constitution and laws of this prosperous and happy country;" alludes to the peculiar character and objects of a "spontaneous assemblage of nature's noblemen;" renders homage to God, and thanks to his country, for the favorable circumstances under which they meet; draws a loving picture of the □ room; exhorts that Masonic intelligence be not sacrificed to Masonic feeling; alludes to the establishment and advancement of Masonry in the New World; explains the object of ⊏⊐ and the fruits of Masonry, and exhorts the brethren to perfect themselves in the principles of our art. "And shall I

be asked," says he, "how these high attainments are to be accomplished? The answer is at hand—simply by applying the golden rule, which teaches us to love what is amiable, respect what is honorable, praise what is commendable, bear with and excuse what is reprehensible, put the best construction on what is doubtful in conduct—in a word, to commiserate and relieve the distresses of others precisely as we would that they should do to us in similar circumstances."

The Grand Master states that a difficulty having occurred in Camden ▭, No. 74, between the W.·. M.·. and some of the members, he ordered an investigation by the District Deputy, assisted by Masters of neighboring ▭. Convinced from the report made to him that harmony could not be restored in the ▭ while that Master presided over it, he placed the charter in the keeping of another, and directed the ▭ to do no business except to hold their regular election. Upon trial in Grand ▭, the Master was sentenced to and received a "very mild reprimand."

We find recorded one peculiar case of remarkably unconscious contumacy on the part of a Subordinate ▭. Thomas Hinds, ▭ No. 58, sent to the Grand ▭ a preamble and resolutions, that whereas, &c., that ▭ had tried a certain member, found him guilty and suspended him, from which decision the accused appealed; and whereas, &c., the Grand ▭ referred the whole matter to a committee, and subsequently adopted their report, "that the case should be reversed, the suspension set aside," &c., "therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That it is the deliberate opinion of this ▭, that the reasons given by the committee for their report, are *frivolous* and *contemptible*, and the action of the Grand ▭, in receiving said report, is *overbearing* and *tyrannical*, inasmuch as it amounts to an order or act *forcing* upon the ▭ and the Fraternity in general, an unworthy member, and calculated to lower the Order in the estimation of all moral and religious societies, by countenancing and conniving at vice and immoralities in its members.

Resolved, That our W.·. M.·. presided with dignity and impartiality in the whole of the trial, for which he has our warmest thanks and approval.

"*Resolved*, That the Representative of this ▭ be directed to return the charter of Thos. Hinds ▭, No. 58, to the Grand ▭ at their next Annual Communication, if no redress can be obtained in the matter."

The matter was referred to a committee, a report of some length, but very temperate and forbearing in its language, was made, and finally resolutions were passed, suspending the charter of the ▭ and citing its Master before the Grand ▭ for trial at its next Annual Communication, *unless* said ▭ should, at its first regular meeting after notice of this action in Grand ▭, "withdraw the said disrespectful preamble and resolutions, in which case the charter shall not be suspended."

This proceeding, we learn from a note by the Grand Secretary, elicited the following extraordinary response:

"MASONIC HALL, FAYETTE, February 2, 1858.

"At a called meeting of Thomas Hinds ▭, No. 58, A.·. Y.·. M.·., held this day, in their hall, the following preamble and resolutions were passed:

"*Whereas*, Certain rumors have been reported to Thomas Hinds ▭, No. 58, to the effect that certain action and resolutions of this ▭, passed at the regular meeting thereof, in the month of June, (13th day,) A. D., 1857, have by some persons been construed as expressing disrespect towards the Grand ▭ of the State of Mississippi. Now, therefore,

"*Resolved*, That this ▭ did not intend in the enactment of said resolutions, any disrespect towards the Grand ▭, and if the same shall be regarded by the brethren, in or out of the Grand ▭, as disrespectful or insulting to said Grand ▭, Thomas Hinds ▭ *does hereby retract all such language and action as shall be so construed*, and also the ▭ rescinds that part of said resolutions tendering a surrender of charter.

"*Resolved*, That the instructions heretofore given to the Tyler of this ▭, in relation to Calvin C. Watkins, be and the same is hereby *revoked*."

The Committee on Correspondence review the Proceedings of 31 Grand Bodies, Minnesota included. The address of our Grand Master is quoted from, and pronounced "an able production."

From the report we learn that the first ▭ of Mississippi "derive their charters from two different sources, viz: The Grand ▭ of Kentucky and Tennessee, and in July, 1818, they met at Natchez and organized an Independent Grand ▭."

NEBRASKA.

Grand Annual Communication at Nebraska City, June 2, 3.

The Proceedings of this first Annual Communication of the Grand ▭ of Nebraska, makes a pamphlet of 42 pages, well arranged and well printed. Our youngest sister of all the great family of Grand ▭, starts off admirably, giving us a good long address from the Grand Master, another from the Grand Orator, various business transactions, and a report of 14 pages from the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. The Grand Master says, "As we are but beginning in the world as a Grand ▭, what say you, my brethren, to placing it upon record, in language not to be mistaken, that we believe the Bible to be God's Holy Word, the Beacon of Light to guide us through the darkness and gloom we daily encounter in our pilgrimage to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns, and that we require a distinct avowal in such belief before initiation."

The Grand ▭ accordingly adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

"*Whereas*, The superstructure of Freemasonry rests upon the truths contained in the Holy Bible, and the history of its origin is contained in those pages; it has been recognized for ages as the foundation-stone of the Order, and from time immemorial has been one of the *ancient landmarks*, either in form of the old or new Testament, or both; therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand ▭, that no man can become a Mason unless he can avow a belief in the principles therein contained, and it is also the sense of this ▭ that the demand for such belief does not conflict with the universality of Freemasonry; but in every land and with every nation where Masonry exists, the Holy Writings are respected and some form of belief in them required from candidates for admission to the mysteries of the Order.

"*Resolved*, That the G.·. ▭ of Nebraska will guard the Ancient Landmarks, and enforce respect for them by every means in her power."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, Bro. A. G. Clark, Chairman, takes a somewhat different and more tenable position, saying:

"1. We claim for the Institution of Masonry an origin anterior to the New Testament, and if this is the truth, then any test founded thereon would be an innovation.

"2. Masonry regards no man for his peculiar religious opinions, provided he be a good man and true, and obeys the moral law.

"It would manifestly be a bad precedent to establish, to require such an avowal, except from one who is known to be a scoffer at our holy religion, for in that case, the only standard by which he can be tried is by the principles contained in the Holy Bible.

"Every nation has its inspired works, and of course it would be useless to require of the Mahommedan a belief in the Bible, or of the Jew a belief in the New Testament. Let every nation try the moral fitness of its applicants by its own peculiar tests, and after they have been thus tried and admitted, no Mason can then dispute the authority of the tribunal by which their moral fitness was tested."

Of Minnesota, Brother Clarke says:

"Our brethren who are guarding the north-west, though Masonically in the place of darkness, by their published Proceedings show them not to be in want of further light."

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Grand Annual Communication at Concord, June 8, 9.

The Grand Master in his address asks attention to the want of uniformity of work, and suggests that a Grand Lecturer be appointed for the whole State, and be remunerated for his services, or that a Grand ▭ be held for instruction, and the attendance of Masters and Wardens demanded. A committee to whom this matter was referred, recommended "that a Grand Lecturer be appointed whose duty it shall be to visit all the Subordinate ▭ within this jurisdiction, not only to instruct them in the work of this Grand ▭, but to investigate the financial condition of each, their amount of work, amount of fees received, how invested and how secured, and of any other matter pertaining to the healthy growth and prosperity of each particular ▭, and report to the M.·. W.·. Grand Master, who shall be authorized to take such action in each particular case as in his judgment he shall deem proper, even to the withdrawing of their charters; and that one half of the expense be paid by this Grand ▭, and the other half by the Subordinate ▭." This recommendation was adopted, and Bro. Thomas Snow was appointed such G.·. Lecturer.

The Grand Master in closing his address, says of our Institution:

"It will require all your wisdom to protect it from approaching danger. We are now in danger from too great prosperity. The pressure at our outer doors is not altogether of a desirable character. Masonry is just now very popular, and there is danger that we may receive to our embraces those who can not perceive its real value. Let me once more charge you to be careful in the examination of candidates, and receive no one on whom rests the vice of immorality."

This is excellent advice from the Grand Master, and we think from the reports of the District D.·. G.·. Masters, was well timed. Five of these District Deputies report. The first one reports granting ten dispensations to confer Degrees. Of one ▭ he says: "I have granted, *I think*, four dispensations to this ▭ for doing work out of season. But in each case *I think* the brother was going beyond the seas or to a remote part of the country," &c. The second reports granting one dispensation to confer the second Degree, and two to confer the second and third Degrees on the same evening. The third reports granting a dispensation "to confer the three Degrees upon two candidates who were about to sail long voyages at sea." But he says, he believed in both instances, "the applicants would make worthy members." The fourth reports granting a dispensation "to initiate, pass, and raise one person who was about to leave for California." Has he turned up yet in your diggings, Bro. Abell? The fifth District Deputy remarks *generally* as follows:

"In regard to Dispensations, I have to some extent granted dispensations for conferring the Degrees sooner than our ordinary rules will warrant, but never unless I have good and sufficient reasons to believe that the good of Masonry demanded it."

The Committee on ▭ complain of a certain ▭ under dispensation, for receiving fees and applications from her own initiates to confer the F.·. C.·. Degree, "which," say the committee, "was against Masonic custom and law. They have not, however, conferred the Degrees, and as we understand the rule, could not, as a ▭ working under dispensation, confer more than the E.·. A.·. Degree." We notice that the Committee on Correspondence reiterated the same strange doctrine, saying: "A dispensation is an instrument granted to a certain number of Masons to assemble and do certain acts. They can not be constituted as a ▭, nor their officers installed. They cannot elect members, *nor can they pass and raise candidates*, nor can act in Grand ▭ till they are chartered, regularly constituted, and their officers installed."

And yet the committee say that the power expressed in the dispensation "is simply to open a ▭ and *make Masons*, and that only for a limited time."

It is to us new doctrine that "a certain number of brethren," qualified to be entrusted with a power to open a ▭, and elect and initiate candidates, are not also qualified to pass and raise; and a dispensation that should confer such limited powers as contemplated by our New Hampshire brethren, seems to us entirely "unfit to be made" as a preliminary step to granting a charter. We know what ▭ were "of old," and we know also that the present Constitution of ▭ makes the first and second Degrees mere stepping-stones, as it were, to becoming a *Mason*. We know that ▭ under dispensation *do* in many jurisdictions, "pass and raise," and had supposed the rule to be uniform in this respect.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is 70 pages in length, and reviews the Proceedings of thirty-five jurisdictions. Minnesota is favorably noticed, and the address of our Grand Master is freely quoted from. We are glad to see that the committee join with us in deprecating the dispensation mania of their D.·. G.·. Masters. Considering the extent of coast enjoyed by New Hampshire, some eighteen miles, we never knew a State so infected with cases of sudden "going beyond the sea." We ought not to laugh, but can't help it.

NEW JERSEY.

Special Communication at Trenton, June 24, 1857. The death of P.·. G.·. M.·. Wm. H. Earl, was announced, and suitable resolutions were passed. A committee previously appointed to purchase clothing and jewels for the Grand ▭, reported that they had purchased a full set for the sum of $600. A motion to purchase also two hundred white lambskin aprons, was lost.

Grand Annual Communication, January 13, 14, 1858.

The Grand Master announces that during the year he granted ten dispensations to make Masons at sight, but gives no reason for such frequent exercise of this prerogative. We must take it for granted that there has been "war in the Jerseys," as any other supposition would raise a doubt about the M.·. W.·. Brother's prudence and discretion. He advises the appointment of a committee to collect information for a history of that Grand ▭, saying that nearly three-quarters of a century has elapsed since its formation, and that with the "passing away" of the older brethren much that is valuable and interesting in their earlier history is being lost, while nothing has as yet been done to collect and save it.

The several Grand Officers make interesting reports of their visits to the different ▭, and announce the general prosperity of the Craft.

The Proceedings contain a lengthy report upon Canada affairs, and the Grand ▭ there was recognized. The subsequent union of the Craft in Canada, renders further notice of argument in their behalf unnecessary.

We notice among the transactions the petition of John Tobin, setting forth that in May, 1856, he, being about to leave for England, received the three Degrees by virtue of a dispensation from the Deputy Grand Master; that he has since been denied admission to the ▭ on the ground that he was irregularly made; and that he desires the Grand ▭ to either declare him a regularly made Mason, or to heal him. The matter was referred to a committee, who report that the act of the D.·. G.·. M.·. was illegal and a violation of the By-Laws of the Grand ▭, but recommend the passage of the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That under the circumstances, believing the ▭ and the brother innocent in their actions, this Grand ▭ hereby declare said Bro. John Tobin worthy of and entitled to all the privileges and benefits of Masonry."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence review very briefly the Proceedings of thirty-two other Grand Bodies, making few comments and occupying less than fifteen pages. Bro. Hough says our Annual Communication in 1857 was held at *St. Pauls*. That is a mistake, brother. There has been but one place of holding our G.·. ▭ since its first organization, and that place is S-t. P-a-u-l. The place you speak of is not in this jurisdiction.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Grand Annual Communication at Raleigh, December 7, 8, 9, 10, 1857.

The Grand Master says in his address upon opening the Grand ▭:

"During the last twelve months, we have passed through a period extremely unpropitious to the progress of Masonry, indeed to the growth and prosperity of any Institution moral and benevolent in its designs. A financial crisis, like the poisonous sirocco, has swept over our country, unexpected in its approach, and marked alone by the ruins in its path. A panic has filled the popular mind, alone equalled by the great business paralyzation of 1837. Men's minds have been too much absorbed in its portentous results to indulge in the softening influences of benevolent designs."

We most deeply regret that Grand Master Holt found himself impelled to declare such a period as he has described, an unpropitious one for the progress of Masonry. What constitutes the *progress* of Masonry? Does she require a time of health and peace and plenty to grow in grace and strength and beauty? No, no, Most Worshipful Brother, we have not so learned her heavenly lessons. When disease enters our dwellings; when the pestilence "walketh in dark-

ness," and "destruction wasteth at noon-day;" when famine threatens; when business stagnates; when the devices of man are brought to nought, and all his plans, his calculations and earthly hopes are struck as by a tornado and scattered like chaff before the winds, then it is that the progress of Masonry is proved or her weakness made manifest. Then it is that our Grand Overseer is applying his square—then the *living* stones are selected for "that temple not made with hands." He is no Mason who thinks and professes, but does not *do*. We have all seen rough ashlars lying disregarded in the ditch, which were they polished and squared, would make many a cap-stone look dull and common. "Devout enthusiasm is far easier than a good action." Times of trial, when our lessons are put to practical tests and we learn that to "work in *speculative* Masonry only," does not by any means fulfill our obligations, may lessen the alarms at our door; but they also prove and purify us who are already within, and woe! to us—a deeper woe because of our professions—if we fail to "indulge in the softening influences of benevolent design."

The address is, however, an excellent one, and contains valuable hints.

"Sometimes," says the Grand Master, "two or more ⊟ will spring up in a community, under the propulsive effort of Masonic excitement, which is barely able to sustain one permanently. A system of proselyting ensues"—and we can all imagine the baneful effects of such a remedy for a depleted treasury. Young Americanism is complained of; also, "a method of making Masons according to the principles of manifest destiny." "In many ⊟ scarcely an initiation occurs but it is marked by a propulsive spirit by being referred specially to the rules which govern cases of emergency."

The Grand Master declines a re-election, and announces his contemplated removal from the State.

The Board of Trustees of St. John's College, "which has for its chief end the education of children of indigent Masons, both living and dead," announces the completion of the building at a cost of $23,000, of which sum, "about $13,000 remains unpaid." The levy of a tax of 50 cents a quarter for one year upon each member of Subordinate ⊟, was recommended. A report was adopted by which the Grand ▭ taxed each Subordinate ▭ at the rate of $1 for each member—the amount to be paid to the Treasurer of the College.

We find from the report of a committee that there were in December, 1857, 126 working ⊟ in that jurisdiction. In addition to

St. John's College, there is a "Masonic Classical Institute," reported in a prosperous condition, at Roxboro', and the "Masonic Institute" at Germanton.

From the report of the Committee on Expulsions and Suspensions, we extract the following:

"Your committee forbear to express their surprise in finding that on the complaint of Eli Penry, charges were preferred against Bro. A. C. Hege, for securing counsel to defeat the application of said Penry to the County Court, for license to retail ardent spirits, alleging that Penry had been prevented from following his regular business, and in consequence thereof had suffered great loss.

"We are glad to see that Bro. Hege acknowledged and entered the plea of justification, and that his ▭ nobly sustained him by refusing either to expel, suspend or reprimand him. Your committee are of opinion that Bro. A. C. Hege has committed no offence against Masonry, but that the action of the party in preferring charges and arraigning him for trial, was 'irregular and unmasonic.'"

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, we notice, was read and *adopted*. The receipt of the Proceedings of 28 Grand ▭ is acknowledged; Minnesota, we regret to say, was not among the number. We are the more disappointed, because the report before us is not only a well digested summary, but also shows a brotherly heart all through it; and we have lost a fraternal warming greeting from North Carolina.

NEW YORK.

Grand Annual Communication in New York city, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7.

The great event of the present year, and one that has gladdened every Mason's heart perhaps the world over, is the union of the Masonic Fraternity in the State of New York. When brethren long estranged come together again, tears and laughter strangely intermingle—joy presses all the faculties into service. We said in our last report, in noticing New York, that brotherly love was a mighty element and would eventually overcome; and more and more, as years pass by, are we led to admire and wonder at the great power of that chief and God-like element of our Ancient and Honorable Order.

The Grand Master's address covers 25 pages, and is worthy to emanate from the Grand East of the Empire State. It says, in commencing:

"To wrestle with giant evils and to achieve conquest for virtue, may become the *hero;* it is the practice of the daily duties of life that reveal the character of the man. A mighty monarch turned a river from its course and overthrew a city, and his name lives in the world's history, while the humble disciple who has pressed the cup of cold water to the parched and fevered lip, is unnoticed and unknown. It will be for the day of the Great Revelation of souls to make known to us which best deserves the sparkling coronal of reward. If, then, we have been permitted to share in these duties, and the consciousness of their faithful perform-

ance has carried with it a recompense to our own hearts and consciences, we ought to be, we are devoutly thankful to the Almighty Giver of good who has assigned us such a position in our life enterprise. * * *

"Some religionists (and they well deserve our respect for the lesson inculated,) require the votary who enters their sanctuaries to put off his shoes; it may be a symbol of devotion, or it may be as a token and pledge of their sincerity in the duties in which they are about to engage; let us so far imitate them as to put off the armed heel, the boots and spurs of controversy, when we enter these doors. Do not let the General Assembly of Masons, pure, but yet mere moralists, resemble the battle-ground of a General Assembly of polemic disputants, or a Congress of law-makers and politicians. It is not necessary to the idea of a battle-ground in a deliberative body, that there should be the din of arms and the war-cry. An assault and battery embraces the idea of a manual touching of the body, and a wound or indignity to the person; but there is an assault and battery upon the character and feelings which is neither manual nor pedal, but is literally both guttural and pectoral, leaving its gaping wounds and bloody indices, which neither surgical skill nor physical ablution can heal or wash away. The tongue and the sword are alike implements of destruction."

We commend the last paragraphs above to our brethren, as worthy of commitment to memory. The Grand Master uses plain language in calling attention of the Grand ▭ to matters requiring attention and legislation.

The Grand Lecturer, R.·. W.·. Wm. A. Drew, makes a lengthy report. As Bro. Drew is an "authority" in Masonic matters, we make the following quotation to show that the instructions of our own Grand Master upon the subject are neither novel nor unsupported. He says:

"I here take occasion of calling the attention of the Grand ▭ to the mode of conferring the third Degree, practiced by a few ▭ in this jurisdiction. I allude to the practice of placing the candidate in the J.·. Warden's chair, when a question is propounded with a view of procuring an erroneous reply. He is made to personate the J.·. W.·. The source of this ceremony is traceable to the idea that Hiram Abiff was the J.·. W.·. at the building of the temple. The idea has obtained with many intelligent Masons, without once reflecting, (no doubt,) that on that occasion King Solomon was the G.·. M.·., Hiram King of Tyre, S.·. W.·., and Hiram Abiff, J.·. W.·. I am of the opinion that a little reflection will convince the inquiring mind that such was not the fact.

"1st. There is no good authority, oral or written, giving him that title. In most of the manuals he is styled the Grand, or Deputy Grand Master; and in one case only is he styled Grand Senior Warden, and then only while in the presence of King Solomon.

"Webb, author of the manual, speaking of the temple, remarks: 'There was employed in its building three Grand Masters,' and shows that when they met together in secret council, they sat together in due east, as equals, engaged in the same great work. Who, then, could have been our third Grand Master but Hiram Abiff?

"Again. It is well understood that while the Craft were at refreshment, he was not with them, but was engaged in drawing his designs upon the *trestle-board*, for the labor of the Craft the ensuing day.

"Finally. He is even represented as superintending the Craft while at labor, as their master builder, by which title he was designated by King Solomon.

"If I am correct in the views expressed, that portion of the ceremony is not in accordance with the ancient practice, and should, therefore, be discontinued; and I am indebted to the learned and truly distinguished R.·. W.·. Dr. Mackey, of South Carolina, for much information upon this

subject, to whose deep research in Masonic lore, the whole body of Masons as well as myself, are deeply indebted for Masonic light."

The Grand Master alludes to Bro. Drew in terms bordering on, if not expressive of, decided enthusiasm. We believe he deserves all the compliments he gets. Zeal, a kindly social nature, and knowledge of what he is about, are eminently characteristic of him.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence make a report of over one hundred pages, and it is sufficient to say as a foundation for recommending it, that Bro. Findlay M. King was chairman. Minnesota occupies an honorable place among the notices of the various Grand ▭. "Subjects of a general interest," says Bro. King, "are discussed by the learned and distinguished Brother Pierson with a Master's mind."

In our first report, we alluded to a remark of Bro. King's that "the proper mode of voting was with the *left* hand," and intimated a desire for more light. The brother says:

"It is difficult for us to explain in writing, but perhaps it may be sufficient for us to inquire which hand is it that is in any position for voting, and in what position is that hand found when the neophyte is first brought to light in a Masonic ▭? The answer will, we think, at once suggest itself to the chairman of the Minnesota committee. Such is the mode of voting in New York, and we believe it to be the 'ancient sign of a Mason.' Do you assent to this, Bro. Prescott?"

Not yet. But we hope to see Bro. King before our next annual gathering, and get the unwritten part of his reasoning.

Upon the question raised by the Ohio committee in claiming for that jurisdiction the honor of inaugurating the era of Grand Masters' addresses and Foreign Committees' reports, the New York committee say:

"We have not the records before us to show when these matters originated in this jurisdiction. Our impressions always have been that New York originated the three most prominent features of international communication among the Grand ▭ of the Union, viz: addresses of the Grand Masters, reports on Foreign Correspondence, and the appointment of Foreign Representatives."

R.·. W.·. Brothers John W. Simons and James M. Austin, committee to prepare a uniform Code of By-Laws, reported a "Standard Form of By-Laws, (intended to serve as a guide in the formation of By-Laws for Subordinate ▭, and subject to such alterations, not inconsistent with the Constitution, as the convenience of the ▭ may dictate.")

The Code so prepared was ordered to be appended to the Constitution, and recommended to the ▭. Section eleven of this proposed Code reads as follows:

"SEC. 11. No person can receive any Degree in this ▭, or become a member thereof, who is not of mature age, sound in mind, perfect in body and limbs, possessing a good character, a trade or profession, or some visi-

ble way of acquiring an honest and respectable livelihood, and publicly acknowledging a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being."

Section Seventeen provides that "no member whose name has been stricken from the roll"—for neglecting or refusing to pay his dues for one year—"can again become a member of this □, without paying up his indebtedness, and being proposed and balloted for as in the case of adjoining members."

The Grand □ was presented with "a right-angled, oblong block of marble, taken from the quarries under the temple at Jerusalem, and procured by our worthy Bro. J. P. Brown, dragoman of the United States Legation at Constantinople, for the Grand □ of the State of New York."

The following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That although the Grand □ of New York is now as heretofore, disinclined to favor the formation of a National Grand □, it will never hesitate to compare opinions with its sister jurisdictions of the United States, on this or any other great national question, and therefore that the G.·. M.·. be and hereby is authorized to appoint not to exceed three delegates, to attend the proposed National Convention to be held at Chicago in 1859, to represent the Grand □ of New York therein.

OREGON, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Astoria, July 12, 13, 14, 15.

The Proceedings from this Grand □ have been received since the close of our October Communication, but in season for printing with this report. We therefore take the liberty to briefly notice them.

The Grand Master commences his address by saying:

"The Grand □ of Oregon is again assembled in Annual Communication. Seven years have now elapsed since its organization. With steadily increasing numbers—and with its numbers, I trust, a corresponding increase of vigor and intelligence—it has now achieved in the years of its existence that 'mystic number' around which cluster so many interesting and instructive Masonic associations. The years of our apprenticeship are passed."

He exhorts the brethren to remember that "Masonry is reared upon foundations laid deeper than mere uniformity to, or proficiency in its ritual observances," announces the granting of seven Dispensations to form new ▭, and one Dispensation to a □ to elect as Master, one "deemed ineligible under a rigid adherence to the ancient charges of a Freemason."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence acknowledged the receipt of Proceedings from 34 Grand ▭, Massachusetts and Missouri alone being absent. These Proceedings are not reviewed in detail, but various matters of general interest are culled from the mass and presented under appropriate heads. A resolution offered by the committee was adopted by the Grand □, as follows:

"*Resolved*, That any Master Mason in good standing, is eligible to any office in the Subordinate □ of which he is a member."

This resolution was passed as an indication, or expression, rather, of the opinion of the Oregon Grand ▭, that it is not necessary that a Master should have previously been a Warden.

A resolution was adopted also, that installations of Grand ▭ officers should be public, and a Grand Orator should be appointed to deliver the Installation address.

The next Communication is to be held at Eugene City, on the second Monday of June next.

PENNSYLVANIA, 1857.

Quarterly Grand Communication, December 1. Extra Grand Communication, December 21, and Annual Grand Communication, December 28.

The Grand Master, M.·. W.·. Brother Peter Williamson, in retiring from office, delivered an interesting address, giving the details of visitations to the ▭ in different parts of the State—Erie, Pittsburgh, Lancaster, &c. He says:

"In the administration of the affairs of the Grand ▭, I can claim but little merit for originality, preferring rather to journey in the safe old paths our fathers trod, than to attempt any untried new ones, confining myself more particularly to the correction of errors and changes which have been gradually introduced in some quarters, and exerting my influence to restore the work and labor of the ▭ in which such have been noticed, to their primitive purity and simplicity."

At the conclusion of his address he proceeded to install his successor, Bro. A. K. Mitchell, who, upon taking the chair, also delivered an address to the brethren. Speaking of the duties of a Grand Master, among the many he is called upon to discharge, "to examine, from time to time, into the condition of the Subordinate ▭ under his jurisdiction," &c., he says of his predecessor's labors:

"But I may be permitted to remark that many of the trials of his laborious duty, arose from the increasing tendency of the Subordinate ▭ to elect officers notoriously incompetent to the performance of the official duties so eagerly sought, and so inconsiderately bestowed. Such a course is not only an irremediable injury to the ▭, but an undutiful act, undutiful to the Grand ▭ of which such officers become official members. The incompetency of officers is unhappily increased by the practice, now too common, of doing their important work by deputy, so that Masons seek official dignities before they are qualified for them, and working by substitutes, never afterwards acquire the practical skill which they owe to their ▭ in their term of office, and which should enable them to guard and enlighten them in future."

There are in the city of Philadelphia thirty-four ▭, and without the city one hundred and eleven, the latter being under the care of seventeen District Deputy Grand Masters.

The Grand Master elect calls attention to the dangers resulting from prosperity, saying:

"But as Masons grow powerful, rich and numerous, they are in danger of that corruption which assails all rich and potent communities. A de-

cay of respect for its restraining landmarks, usages and customs, is among the earliest symptoms of that corruption. Usages derived from unmasonic sources, gradually steal into the pure temple of mystic truth, to defile its altars and poison its atmosphere. Its language is altered by the rationalists, its symbols are shaped to suit speculators, its time-sanctioned practices are bent to the prevailing fashions of the world without, and the golden chain of its generous Fraternity and love is worn rather for ornament than use. Innovation precedes downfall, dereliction of principle foretells abandonment of practical virtue, and the Masonry which decries ancestral and traditional truth, soon ceases to deserve the name of Masonry either in theory or practice. Cling, therefore, to your time honored system, preserve inviolate the lessons of your fathers, guard your traditions and usages from sophistication from within and adulteration from without. Protect them alike from fanciful friends and concealed enemies. LET US NOT TOUCH THE ARK OF OUR MASONIC COVENANT LEST WE PERISH MASONICALLY."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence briefly notice the Proceedings of 27 Grand ▭. No mention is made of Minnesota. Our Proceedings are regularly mailed to the Grand Secretary.

We have before us one more pamphlet from the Grand ▭ of Pennsylvania—a mourning missive—Sacred to the memory of "a departed Grand Master." Most Worshipful Brother John K. Mitchell, died on the 4th day of April last. The addresses delivered at the Special Communication which the sad occurrence convened, are among the most tenderly beautiful we ever read. Says P.·. G.·. M.·. James Page:

"For the first time in the history of this Grand ▭ has its head been called away with all the regalia of the Order about him. By the full force and virtue of his great merit, and the spontaneous suffrages of his brethren, the deceased had barely reached the East before he was called upon by a stern and unrelenting messenger, to surrender his high trust and pass from among the living. How fleeting the power—how transitory the honor! If anything is calculated to teach humility, this peculiar deprivation will bring it home to us all, and the lesson taught by it should be a lasting and impressive one. Let us lay it to heart and profit by it, keeping our desires within due bounds, and checking all premature aspirations for distinction. Here the honors which are conferred should follow good works, and wait only on true Masonic merit. They should rather seek than be sought, the selfish not being the Masonic spirit; for even when properly and virtuously obtained, behold how temporary is the possession and enjoyment."

Passing to a notice of the character of the deceased, the M.·. W.·. brother says:

"His whole life was marked with a charity as beautiful to behold as it was fruitful for happiness in its influences on all who knew him."

The pamphlet closes with the following words:

"The solemnity of the occasion was only equalled by the deep interest in the Proceedings, and the sorrow at the loss sustained by the brethren. Without transacting any other business, the Grand ▭ closed, and the brethren separated in peace and harmony."

A resolution was adopted that "no election shall be held until the stated Grand Quarterly Communication in December next, and that until the installation of his successor, the Oriental Chair shall be

covered with crape, and the Grand ▭ with the habiliments of mourning."

RHODE ISLAND, 1857.

Twenty-four pages suffice to give the Proceedings of this Grand ▭ at seven different Communications, the first being on the 22d of August, 1856, and the last on the 24th of June and 31st of August, 1857. These Proceedings did not go to press until February, 1858.

The address of the Grand Master at the Quarterly Communication in May, 1857, is given. It is mostly historical. We learn from it that the Grand ▭ of Rhode Island was constituted in 1791, by St. John's ▭ in Newport, consisting of 113 members, and St. John's ▭ in Providence, consisting of 122 members; that "it was arranged that the officers of the Grand ▭ should be equally divided between the two ▭, and that the officers should be elected by each ▭ in its separate capacity;" that accordingly the Newport ▭ elected the G.·. M.·., the S.·. G.·. W.·., the S.·. G.·. D.·., the G.·. S.·., the G.·. Mar., and two "honorary members;" and the Providence ▭ elected the D.·. G.·. M.·., the J.·. G.·. W.·., the J.·. G.·. D.·., the G.·. T.·., the G.·. S.·. B.·., and two "honorary members;" that up to the adoption of the New Constitution in 1802, both these ▭ stood as No. 1; that new ▭ were constituted as follows: One in 1796, two in 1798, one in 1800, two in 1805, one in 1806, two in 1808, one in 1811, two in 1816, one in 1822, one in 1824, two in 1825, and one in 1856. New Constitutions were adopted in 1802, 1808, 1826, and 1848. Five ▭ have become extinct, leaving the present number 15. The Grand Secretary's recapitulatory table shows the number of members to be 1,048, including "What Cheer ▭, No. 21," of which there is no mention in the Proceedings.

The Grand Master mentions, as one of his predecessors, Thomas Smith Webb, saying: This (Providence,) was his place of residence, and this his place of burial. He was interred in this city by the Grand ▭, Nov. 8, 1819."

The following reminiscence of the "last war" is given:

"On the 3d of October, 1814, the Grand ▭, together with 250 members of Subordinate ▭, convened in Providence, and proceeded to erect a breastwork on Fox Point, 430 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 5 feet high. The M.·. W.·. Grand Master in the name of the M.·. W.·. Grand ▭ of the State of Rhode Island, gave it the dignified name of 'Fort Hiram.'"

It does not appear from the published Proceedings that the Grand ▭ had anything to eat but once during the years 1856–7, and that was at the Centennial Celebration of St. John's ▭, No. 2, at Providence. Of that occasion it is recorded that about 1,300 plates

were laid, and "about one hour was passed in the enjoyment of the very bountiful supply of good things with which the tables were loaded."

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Special Communication at Charleston, January 29, 1857.

Quarterly Communications March 3, June 2, September 1, and December 1; and Grand Annual Communication and Grand Feast, December 28, the 27th being Sunday.

The R.·. W.·. Grand Secretary, Bro. Albert G. Mackey, makes his annual report on Foreign Correspondence. He does not review the Proceedings of other Grand Bodies in detail, but expresses his opinion upon a variety of subjects which have been discussed in other jurisdictions. Bro. Mackey's world-wide renown as one of the most learned Masons in the whole Fraternity, makes his reports sought after; and his views upon Masonic subjects are generally received as law; and therefore it is with no small degree of pride that we notice he has devoted nearly three pages to Minnesota and matters suggested by a review of our M.·. W.·. Grand Master's address. "The Craft of Minnesota," says he, "enjoy the advantage of being governed by one of the truest and trustiest Masons that is to be found on the list of Grand Masters." We make a few extracts from his report. Quoting what our G.·. M.·. says upon the qualifications of candidates, Bro. Mackey says:

"Committees of investigation are, in fact, the most important bodies that are appointed in Masonry. They often hold in their hands the keys which grant or forbid the entrance of candidates within our portals, and no man should accept the appointment unless prepared to make every sacrifice that is necessary for the faithful discharge of his duty. That duty consists, as laid down in our old regulations, in a *due inquiry* into the character of the candidate. Not an inquiry, satisfied with negative evidence of his unworthiness, but positive and satisfactory proof from the testimony of those who know him, that the applicant is morally, socially, physically, and intellectually fit to become a member of our Fraternity. The committee which makes a favorable report upon a petition based on any other testimony than that elicited from a careful investigation of the candidate's standing and conduct among those outside of the Order, who have known him well, is grossly derelict to its duty, and violates the fundamental principles of Masonry."

Upon the advancement of candidates, he says:

"Hence the candidate who rapidly passes through his Degrees, without a due examination of the moral and intellectual purposes of each, arrives at the summit of our edifice without a due and necessary appreciation of the general symmetry and connection that pervades the whole system. The candidate thus hurried through the elements of our science, and unprepared by a knowledge of its fundamental principles for the reception and comprehension of the corollaries which are to be deduced from them, views the whole Institution as 'a rude and indigested mass' of frivolous ceremonies and puerile conceits, whose intrinsic value will not adequately pay him for the time, the trouble and expense, that he has incurred in his forced initiation. To him, Masonry is as incomprehensible as was the veiled statue of Isis to its blind worshippers, and becomes in consequence

either a useless drone in our hive, or speedily retires in disgust from all participation in our labors. But the candidate who, by slow and painful steps has proceeded through each apartment of our mystic temple, from its porch to its sanctury, pausing in his progress to admire the beauty, and to study the uses of each, learning as he advances 'line upon line and precept upon precept,' is gradually and almost imperceptibly imbued with so much admiration of the Institution, so much love for its principles, so much just appreciation of its design as a conservator of divine truth and an agent of human civilization, that he is inclined, on beholding at last the whole beauty of the finished building, to exclaim as did the wondering Queen of Sheba, of the magnificence of the temple, 'a most excellent master must have done all this!'

"The usage in this, as well as in most other jurisdictions, when the question is asked whether the candidate has made suitable proficiency in his preceding Degree, is to reply, 'such as time and circumstances would permit.' I have no doubt that this is an innovation originally invented to evade the law, which has always required a due proficiency. To such a question, no other answer ought to be given than the positive and unequivocal one that 'he has.'"

We are happy to state that the practice in this jurisdiction, under the direction of our Grand Master, is, so far as we have had observation, to give that positive and unequivocal answer that "*he has;*" and also that candidates must in open ▭ go through with an examination upon each Degree before being advanced.

Bro. Mackey alludes to the "evil of over-legislation in our Order," and instances the resolution passed by the Grand ▭ of Texas, requiring a declaration of belief in the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, as a specimen. He says:

"By declaring that a belief in the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures is necessary to admission, while such resolution is not intended to exclude Israelites, a distinction is at once made between the authority of the Old and New Testaments, which no Christian Mason could for a moment tolerate. If a creed is to be established by any ▭ in relation to the divine authority of the Bible, which creed I am to subscribe, both covenants must be included, or I can not as a Christian support it. I can not and must not permit the Bible to be mutilated; I do not ask my Jewish brethren to admit the divine authority of the New Testament—I do not discuss the subject with them at all. But neither must I be expected to make a solemn declaration of the authenticity of the Old Testament, with a marked exclusion of the New. This, however, the resolution of the Grand ▭ of Texas does, at least, by implication. The whole subject is dangerous, and if we once begin by amending our landmarks and establishing formulas of faith, no one can tell where we shall stop—perhaps not short of the utter demolition of the universal spirit of toleration, which now, happily, prevades our Institution."

Upon the matter of arresting the progress of a brother, the following sensible position is taken:

"We hold it to be a better rule, that the candidate for advancement has a right to apply at every regular meeting, and that whenever any moral objection exists to his taking a higher Degree, it is better to present these objections in the form of charges, and test their truth by an impartial trial. *To this, too, the candidate is undoubtedly entitled on all the principles of justice.*"

Brother Mackey makes an elaborate report upon the situation of affairs as then existing in Canada, fully and emphatically recognizing as *the* Grand ▭ that Body over which M.·. W.·. Wm. W. Wil-

son was and is Grand Master, and declaring all other Masonic Bodies outside of it as necessarily irregular and illegal.

Of Grand Lectures, the brother remarks that "in this advanced age of Masonic improvement, the attempt to appoint lecturers by the year, as we hire domestics or employ laborers, is an insult to the intelligence of the Order," and he exhorts to due regard to the qualifications of those selected for that important office.

TENNESSEE, 1857.

Grand Annual Communication at Nashville, October 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

The following from the Grand Master's address, we commend as "sound doctrine." Would that the heart felt as well as the mind acknowledged its truth, and that there were no *abstractions* in Masonry:

"We laud our Institution as a school of morality and virtue, and claim to be the sons of light. But others will judge us by our fruits, not by our pretensions; and they will judge Masonry by us—not by what we say it is, nor by its ritual ceremonies and symbols. We profess a high veneration for the Supreme Being, and for that omnific word by which he is named. A Mason, then, can not take His name in vain without violence to one of the principles of the Order. In so far as he does this, he is false to himself and to his brethren. And I would submit whether, if after admonition there be no reformation, he should not be put upon trial before his □.

"We profess to venerate the law of God; and this law requires that we 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' Then every Mason should pay a decent respect to the religious opinions of the community in which he lives, and so regard this day as to set before his family and the world a commendable example.

"We profess to honor virtue; and shall a Mason so far forget himself and the highest aim of his profession, as to provoke the scorn of the world in branding him as the slave of passion? And shall our holy places, sacred to every social virtue, be desecrated by the contaminating tread of the profligate and licentious?

"Masonry's first great cardinal virtue is Temperance. Never let our convocations and festivities be scandalized by inebriety or intoxication.

"Let us refrain from these and all other vices which Masonry prohibits: * * * * then shall we have nothing to fear from without. Masonry and her destiny will be in the hands of her friends, to be transmitted in honor and glory to those who shall come after us, venerable in antiquity, commended by authority, dear for the father's sake, fraught with universal benevolence, and exciting the prayers of nations and generations for her everlasting perpetuity, and unlimited sway. Then shall the widow's heart sing for joy, and the shield over orphanage gladden its tearful gaze. Then shall the temple of Masonry, secure in strength, stand forth, beautiful in its architecture and ample in its sweep; while virtue shall kneel at her altar, and wisdom, truth, and love shall hang their fadeless garlands upon her shrine."

The Installation of Officers was public, and the ceremonies were performed at one of the city churches, Rev. Bro. A. J. Baird, Grand Orator, delivering an address on the occasion. We quote a few passages:

"He is called a citizen of this great country, who adopts its Constitution and promises to observe its laws; but he is known to be one who governs himself accordingly. Promises, at best, can only regulate our speculations, but performance is the finale of demonstration. Among Masons,

the former is but the pricking down the name, whilst the latter is becoming one of us in deed and in truth. * * * * *

"The Constitution of Masonry is of few articles, but very comprehensive; Joy, Love, Peace, Long-Suffering, Patience, Temperance, Friendship, Truth, Integrity, Meekness, Justice, Kindness, Fidelity, Silence, and Circumspection. This is the code, which, when reduced to practice, we call morality. And the greatest secret of the Fraternity is, if you will allow me to tell it publicly, to learn to be governed by these pure principles. * * * ▭, usages, customs, and ceremonies may be peculiar to ages, countries, and times—but the moral nature, the root, trunk, branch, and fruit have ever been the same. * * * * *

"There is a fountain of painful sweetness that comes welling up from the troubled depths of a sorrowing heart, as the shadowy hand of recollection writes beneath the mute likeness that hangs near, and on the vacant wall, the familiar words—kindness, patience, charity, philanthropy, good name. All understand now why he was so often gone and stayed so long. He lived to purpose—and the stooping world may search in vain for the gem fallen from its bosom; for the Master needed it and reached down and gathered the jewel to bedeck his own starry throne.

"The beggar's ragged child that waits at the widow's gate for the accustomed alms, is a compliment that angels would feel flattered to receive. * * * * * * * *

"Masonry is a social order, where every worthy domestic circle may have its representative. Who wants to breast the world alone? Whose strength and fortitude is not made stronger by help, and whose burden is not lighter when shared by trusty friends? * * *

"We do not claim that Masonry, as the world sees it, is always a fair exponent of its principles. Evil and designing men have polluted the fair ranks of higher and holier associations than this. Every tree has its dead and cragged deformities. Each streamlet, however laughing and bright, carries with it impurities. Every organization has its unworthy members. * * We boldly give our principles, yea, are proud to give them, and in doing this, give all we have to give. * * *

"How can civility and intelligence seek companionship in a ▭ whose sacred entrance is guarded by drunkenness and debauchery? How can respectability retain its caste, and mingle promiscuously with desolating profanity? Let him who thinketh to enter this quiet chamber of benevolence and charity, pause upon its threshold and consider well what he doeth. *No mortal doeth well to sport with the eternal God and His Word. Time, place nor circumstance can make them common.* Let him enter this house of admonition with thoughtful care. Professions of attainment—assumptions of character—badges, symbols, and sacred insignia, are not the amusements for thoughtless pastime, but are true indices to the mind and heart of the bearer. * * * * * *

"Forget it not—it is that which cometh into, and not that which goeth out of the ▭, that defiles. The prosperity of a ▭ is not to be reckoned by the number she has, or may be receiving, but by the *steadfast integrity* of her members. * * * * * * *

"Masonry is for practice rather than preparation, for demonstration rather than reform. * * * * * *

"Whither will he go who followeth in thy path? is a question to be asked at every turn of life."

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is fifty-four pages in length, noticing the "Proceedings of all the Grand ▭ in the United States." The Grand Secretary, R.·. W.·. C. A. Fuller, a P.·. G.·. M.·. of the Grand ▭, is chairman, and says at the outset:

"In commenting upon the acts of other Grand Bodies, the writer, (as expressed in former reports from his pen,) does not consider it any part of his duty to criticise their Proceedings in a captious or fault-finding style, but to examine them in a spirit of fraternal courtesy, giving an en-

couraging word to all efforts to elevate the standard of pure morals, and when called upon to express disapprobation, to do so kindly and with due regard to the feelings of others."

Right worthily does the brother adhere to his pre-arranged plan, and the result is a report well calculated to inform and benefit every reader. Our Proceedings for 1857 are noticed.

Bro. Fuller suggests that the Grand ▭ "take into consideration the propriety of passing an edict recommending or restricting the elections in Subordinate ▭ to annual instead of semi-annual." We would suggest that the Grand ▭ use all the power belonging to it in carrying out Bro. Fuller's recommendation. Annual elections are bad enough—don't give the "itching palm" any more development.

With the following extract, true and pertinent, we must bid our Tennessee brethren good-bye, and "start for Texas:"

"There is too great laxity among Masons in meeting *promises* made to each other in the ordinary transactions of life; and however few such instances occur, it tends in no small degree to destroy confidence among brethren. This ought not to be so—a Mason's word should be 'as good as his bond,' and a failure to comply with an unwritten pledge be visited with the same condemnation that would be inflicted for the violation of any other."

TEXAS.

Grand Annual Communication at Huntsville, June 14, 15, 16, 17.

The Grand Master announces the granting of six Dispensations for new ▭. His address is a business document, laying before the Grand ▭ information concerning the condition and working of the Craft in his jurisdiction, and calling attention to such matters as he deems call for action by that body.

The business before the Grand ▭ was of local interest only.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence in their report, review and comment upon the Proceedings of 18 Grand ▭. Minnesota is noticed in a very flattering manner. Bro. Alex. Neill is the chairman of the committee. He avers that our Grand ▭ is presided over by one of the best Masons he has ever met.

In noticing your committee's strictures upon the New Hampshire Dispensations for conferring Degrees upon persons desirous to leave the State, Bro. Neill says:

"The Minnesotians ought to recollect that New Hampshire is near the rising of the sun, the great source of light, and having plenty of it to spare are desirous of having it reflected from their work, sent out to the far west by those 'who having long had a favorable opinion of your Ancient Order, are desirous of becoming members, &c.' Really, this is a serious evil, and the only way to prevent the practice is to take away the power from District Deputies of granting Dispensations. The office is one of very recent formation, and the powers are limited and can easily be controlled—cut down their powers or their office—one or the other."

We have only to say upon this, that as New Hampshire has, during the past year, turned out another batch of the same kind of "light," we sincerely hope our brethren there are not getting up a new system of rewards as inducements to emigration—for "some leave their country for their country's good." Last year, Bro. Isaacs, one of the New Hampshire District Deputies, reported the granting of Dispensations to brethren about to leave the State, "but believing it was for the good of Masonry;" and we join Bro. Neill in wishing "he had been more particular and stated whether their leaving the State was for the good of Masonry, or did they leave it for their own good."

Bro. Neill has an unpleasant controversy with the Ohio Committee on Correspondence. We did not, in reading the latter committee's remarks, notice any evidence of "malice," nor any attempt "to pour out their vials of wrath upon the Texas Grand □." Such controversies are much to be regretted, and great caution should be exercised in making the choice of language in which to conduct them. "A Mason's Charity" should be an active principle.

VERMONT.

Grand Annual Communication at Burlington, January 13, 14, 1857.

Grand Master Tucker opens the Proceedings with an address of thirty pages. After the lengthy specimen we gave of the M.·. W.·. brother's ability and knowledge last year, liberal quotations will doubtless be expected now, but we reluctantly refrain from making more than two or three extracts.

"Every brother will recognize the wide difference between working well and ill, both as to its own beauty and its effect upon the initiate. In the one case, you have a beautiful moral temple, gratifying to your own vision, and attractive to your newly admitted brother; in the other, a temple of broken arches, displaced architraves and prostrate columns; a temple where the stones are not properly hewn, squared and numbered, and in which the candidate will discern only the materials of the building and not the perfect and finished edifice.

"It would be singular if in our more than forty ▭ some trouble did not arise. It would be almost a miracle, indeed, if among over more than two thousand affiliated members, breaches of Masonic morality did not occur. They are but the common lot among so great a number of men. It may be justly our pride that our causes of Masonic discipline are so few."

An unhappy case of "grievance" exists between the Vermont and New York Grand ▭, relative to giving the Degrees, in the latter jurisdiction, to a man who had been rejected by a □ in Vermont. The man seems to have carried on business both in Burlington and Ogdensburgh. His first application was to the Burlington □, where he appears to have resided. The application was rejected. He then, concealing this fact, applied to the Ogdensburgh □,

is there admitted, and going back to Burlington, demands the privilege of visiting as a brother, the very ▭ which had black-balled him! A correspondence ensues, committees are appointed, and the Grand ▭ of New York passes resolutions exonerating Ogdensburgh ▭ from all blame, and "that the M.·. W.·. G.·. M.·. of Vermont be respectfully informed" of their action, requesting also, that the "Brother" in dispute be recognized as a member in good standing by the Grand ▭ of Vermont. Bro. Tucker acknowledges himself "respectfully informed," and in return "respectfully" informs the New York brethren that neither he nor the Grand ▭ of Vermont can accept the advice to recognize Mr. A. Platt; and he goes on to set forth his grievances, saying:—"I speak strongly in this case, because having furnished the evidence I know what was before the New York Committee. Had any Master of a ▭ in Vermont shown the same ignorance of a leading rule of his own Grand ▭ as was shown by the Master of Ogdensburgh ▭, in relation to the 23d Article of the Regulations of the Grand ▭ of that State, he would have been degraded for incompetence. The Committee of the Grand ▭ of New York, in their first resolution, express themselves as opposed to sanctioning any act which would bring their Grand ▭ and this, into collision; and yet at the very moment that resolution was penned, (June, 1857,) it was well known to that Committee that eighteen months before, (January, 1856,) the Grand ▭ of Vermont had taken such action in Platt's case as would be directly in collision with the action they were then recommending to their own Grand ▭."

We cannot commend the style of G.·. M.·. Tucker's remarks, nor will we quote the most offensive portions. Our impressions are that New York has not treated Vermont with proper courtesy, but we dislike to see "invectives" promulgated from official stations. Looking at the New York Proceedings in this connection, we find a Committee was appointed to review the action taken by that body last year. The differences will, we trust, be amicably settled; but written words, whether of love or passion, remain upon the record and the memory, even though the fountain from which they flow has become a waste, or the sore which ejected them is sound flesh again.

The condition of affairs in Canada is examined at length, but our brethren in that Province, having settled their own matters and united in one Grand ▭, his arguments do not require notice.

We find nothing of general interest in the transactions of the Grand ▭. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence acknowledge the reception of "fifty-one volumes and more than six thousand pages of closely printed matter," in which they "found a vast fund

of information, interesting and profitable to the lover and student of Masonry." The Proceedings of the Grand ▭ are not noticed in detail, but interesting extracts are given, several questions are discussed, and a "Tabular Statement of Masonic Statistics gathered from various Grand ▭ Proceedings," is presented.

VIRGINIA.

Grand Annual Communication at Richmond, December 14, 15, 16, 1858.

We notice first in these Proceedings, that at each day's opening of the Grand ▭, a full list of the Grand Officers, Representatives, Past Officers and visitors present is given, and that each opening was in Ample Form—covering over three pages of print.

The G.·. M.·. congratulates the brethren upon the condition of the Order in that jurisdiction, saying:—"It was never more prosperous than now." Eighteen Dispensations for new ▭ were granted, making the whole number of ▭ in the State, 175; "and it is with pride that I state," says the G.·. M.·., "that with a single exception, harmony reigns in all the ▭ within our wide jurisdiction." Attention is called to the practice of publishing with the Proceedings of the Grand ▭ a list of rejections made by the Subordinate ▭, and it is recommended, very wisely, we think, that the practice be discontinued. The financial condition of the Grand ▭ was reported as "good and healthy." Fifteen Charters were granted, and one Dispensation was continued.

We quote the following Report in full, as it is in relation to a matter which should and doubtless does interest every Mason who reveres the memory of that illustrious brother, George Washington:

"The Special Committee to whom was referred the circular of Richmond ▭ No. 10, in relation to the purchase of Mount Vernon by the Masonic Fraternity in the United States, and the presentation of that venerated domain to the State of Virginia, have duly considered the same, and beg leave to offer the following report:

"We regard the suggestion of ▭ No. 10, as most patriotic and fraternal in its design, and we believe if crowned with success and carried into practical operation, that ▭ will have earned a claim to an exalted position in our Ancient Temple. We most cordially endorse the recommendations embraced in the circular referred to our special consideration; and as an initiatory step in this grand project, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

"1. *Resolved*, That the Subordinate ▭ in this Masonic Jurisdiction, be requested to contribute the sum of one dollar for each member, towards a fund for the purchase of Mount Vernon.

"2. *Resolved*, That the contribution referred to in the first resolution, shall not be called for until the subject has been submitted to our sister Grand ▭ in these United States, and their co-operation secured.

"3. *Resolved*, That the R.·. W.·. Grand Secretary be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions, with the circular of Richmond ▭, No. 10, to each Grand ▭ in the United States, and request them to give this patriotic suggestion their most serious consideration.

"4. *Resolved*, That it is the desire of the Grand ▭ to co-operate with the Mount Vernon Association for the purchase of Mount Vernon, and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to correspond with the Southern Matron, as the presiding officer of that Association, tendering our services in the common cause, and proposing the joint use of the several funds."

This report was adopted, and circulars were issued by R.·. W.·. Bro. Dove, G.·. S.·., accordingly. The subject will come before this Grand ▭ for action, and your committee will not here comment upon it.

From the report of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, upon various subjects submitted to them, we make the following extract:

"7. 'Is it right and proper, after the friends have buried the body of a deceased brother, for the ▭ to perform, at a subsequent period, and in a different part of the country, the Masonic burial service, the body being represented by the lid of a coffin?'

"Your committee learn with surprise that this custom has obtained. They say it is most emphatically wrong, and if continued can only bring our solemn burial service into contempt."

The Grand ▭ having been specially invited to participate in the ceremonies of inaugurating the Virginia Washington Monument, 22d February, 1858, in such manner as they might adopt, accepted the invitation and empowered a committee to make the necessary arrangements. The corner stone of the monument was laid by the Grand ▭, February 22, 1850, just eight years previous.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence noticed in seventeen pages, the Proceedings of thirty-two Grand ▭, Minnesota among them. In noticing our report for 1857, the committee say:

"We are sorry to find our language on the subject of 'Investigating Committees, commented on as *unnecessarily harsh*. We assure our brethren of Minnesota we have no intention to be harsh at all, but fully convinced of the importance of a check being put to all this, as we conceive un-masonic practice, we have deemed it our duty to speak out on the subject, so as not to be misunderstood, and we cannot but fancy from the reflections which follow the taking our arguments into consideration, that, in reality, there is not much difference in opinion between us. We cannot subscribe to the doctrine that 'what is every one's duty is no one's duty;' nor do we deem it in any way a Mason's duty to disclose which way he has voted, to any one, because the harmony of the ▭ must necessarily be disturbed by the proposer or seconder of the candidate being aware of the objecting brother. We again entreat our brethren to think well of this, and do nothing in the slightest degree to invade the sanctity of the ballot-box; the wisdom of our ancestors placed this bulwark there, and evil can only result if sacriligious hands tear it down."

We will only say further upon this subject, that could we belong to a ▭ exactly to our liking, there would be no need of *appointing* an Investigating Committee in it; for every brother, upon the announcement of an applicant's name, would make it his *first business* to know that applicant thoroughly, and to investigate his claim to those "Moral, Physical, Intellectual and Social qualifications" which should in all cases be the pre-requisites to Masonic recognition. We are sorry to say, however, that as a general thing, Masons them-

selves too lightly appreciate the privilege of being a Mason. Unless some brother has a positive objection to the candidate, the report of the committee, upon mere heresay information, is allowed to pass as a sufficient voucher for his fitness—a very disastrous custom, and showing a lamentable want of interest among the brethren.

The committee say, in concluding their report: "We trust we shall not be misunderstood when we express the hope that in the study of the *philosophy* of Masonry, we may not be brought to consider the character of a *bright*, paramount to that of a *good* Mason."

That hope will find cordial and earnest response in every warm heart; but when the committee go on to decry our Masonic literature, and to "almost incline to the opinion that it would be as well to commit the whole (that has been written upon Freemasonry,) to the flames," they may well suspect their doctrines to be "barbarous." We do not sympathize with them in their fears about exposing things "not proper to be written." It is true that more Magazines and Newspapers are being published than can secure *brains* to conduct them; but we feel just as free to decline subscribing for a Masonic periodical as any other, and we never allow a canvasser to choke us down with the remark, "You must patronize the Order."

We have also before us the "Proceedings of a Special Grand □," assembled for the purpose of inaugurating the Virginia Washington Monument. It was an occasion long to be remembered. For eight years had the sons of that "Mother of Presidents," Virginia, been rearing and perfecting a statue in honor of him, who, as a token that the rise and prosperity of this nation had been decreed in the Council of the Highest, was sent to be the first leader of our armies and our first Chief Magistrate. The Proceedings before us give the reports of committees; the order of procession; the proclamation of the venerable and talented Grand Secretary, R.·. W.·. Bro. John Dove; the lengthy and impressive prayer; the speeches of the Grand Architect and Most Worshipful Grand Master, upon the return to the latter of the Implements of Architecture; the address of the M.·. W.·. P.·. G.·. M.·. R. G. Scott; the benediction; and the short but eloquent address of that distinguished brother, Governor Wise. The festivities were closed by a banquet given to the Grand □ and her guests, by the Sir Knights, who had acted as escort during the ceremonies. Among the good things which were eaten and *done* upon that occasion, Sir Knights B. B. French and Robt. Morris, showed they were not degenerate Sons of the Troubadours. Each recited a beautiful original poem.

The pamphlet before us opens with a fine lithograph of the monument, and closes with its history, and is an interesting and valuable contribution for our archives.

WISCONSIN, 1858.

Grand Annual Communication at Milwaukee, June 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

The Grand Master announces 89 chartered ▱, besides quite a large number under dispensation, working under that jurisdiction, having a membership of over 4,000.

R.·. W.·. Wm. R. Smith, after serving for many years as Grand Secretary, declines a re-election in a short but most eloquent address. He says:

"Of the older Grand Secretaries of the Mississippi Valley, I am the last to retire from office. Mellen, Dashiel, Swigert, have withdrawn after long and devoted service, while Austin W. Morris and Armand P. Pfister have gone down to that sleep which knows no waking. It is time that I laid down the pen which has so often written up the records of other men, and await the hour not far distant when the pen will be used to write up mine; three score years and twelve claim their exemption from further labor in tones which can not be disputed."

The Grand Lecturer, R.·. W.·. Bro. M. L. Youngs, reports having visited 81 ▱, remaining with many of them "three or four, and in some instances, as many as six days." He found in the ▱ "with few exceptions, the utmost harmony and good feeling;" alludes to the prosperity and popularity of the Order, and expresses fears that the evils which outside favor is sure to engender, will endanger the purity and strength of Masonry. The brethren are exhorted to exceeding care in the admission of members. He deprecates the facility with which dispensations for new ▱ are obtained —the "nearest ▭" giving its recommendation "in a spirit of neighborly kindness, and fraternal accommodation," and thus misleading the Grand Master as to the real necessities of the case. The suggestion of Brother Youngs, that dispensations when granted should be sent to the Grand Lecturer, that he may attend and instruct the new ▭ in the right work at first, instead of afterwards being obliged to unlearn the brethren, is a good one.

The Committee on Correspondence briefly notice a large number of Proceedings of other Grand Bodies, for the years '56, '57, and '58, "making a total of 5,098 pages." Minnesota is noticed, and the committee inquire why Wisconsin was neglected in our report. Simply because the volume now before us is the first and only document we have ever received from your Grand ▭—excepting, perhaps, notices of election of Grand Officers.

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *Chairman.*